



Life



September 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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September 2026 Services

6 th	10.00am	Messy Church we'll be thinking about this wonderful Earth, and how awesome everything in it is, and maybe making some fish and other things that might reappear later in the month
	10.30am	Worship led by Janet Godden will introduce us to the Ezekiel reading, paired with the lectionary reading of Matthew 18:15 – and how we keep it all going for the next generation
13 th	10.30am	Worship led by Bryn Thomas, with communion will develop themes of repairing the damage (see also the prayer on page 8)
20 th	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore going for another approach, looking at how we connect faith, creation care and finance and how all of us have influence through our choices and our use of money
27 th	10.30am	Harvest Parade service with all the uniformed organisations We'll use the Ezekiel reading to think about God's overflowing generosity and how we share it all around

(Start of) October 2026 Services

4 th	10.00am	Messy Church
	10.30am	Worship led by Nigel Macdonald will round out the season for classic church, linking the vineyard theme of that week's lectionary readings (Isaiah 5:1-7, Matthew 21:33-46) to the overall Season of Creation themes

We give thanks that all our worship leaders are working within the Season of Creation themes for September (and 1st week of October). Some will be working directly with this year's core text from Ezekiel, others will take things in a slightly different direction.

Pastoral Letter

One of my joys when I visit other churches as Synod Green Apostle is finding out all the small things they are doing to care for this wonderful earth, God's creation and gift to us.

Of course, there's lots of big things being done (solar panels come to mind), but it's the thought that goes into the small things that really tells you that people are committed. It might be planting up lavender bushes on a driveway, installing bike racks, or simply fixing that draughty door. But everything says "we care", and typically these things also say to the community "you're welcome here".

Caring for God's creation is not some extra task to be tacked on to the end of a busy day, but something inherently missional. It's a calling, something God has given us to do, and something we do out of response to His love. It's a form of preaching the gospel – in actions rather than words. It's a form of loving our neighbours - keeping this beautiful planet in a fit state for all to live in, rather than harming it and causing hurt to ourselves and others.

The Church of England recently published an update on its journey to net zero. The report is very much pitched around the five marks of mission (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure), and reminds us that taking steps to net zero bears witness to all five marks, not just one or two. And I love this quote:

"Our work to reduce carbon emissions invites the wider community into a shared project of renewal. This is evangelism in the broadest and richest sense, the church living in such a way that the Kingdom of God becomes visible on ordinary streets and village greens". (Team Vicar, the Vale & Cotswold Edge)

At Emmanuel, we're on a similar shared project of renewal. Through our missional roles we're reaching out to the wider community around us, our "ordinary streets". Through our Eco Church programme, we're making caring for God's creation a central part of how we do things. The renewal of life on earth and the renewal of communities go hand in hand.

As we celebrate the Season of Creation again this September, please spare a moment to think of – and start doing – a few small things that say *you* care. And together, as we worship, serve and enjoy fellowship, let's share God's love at the same time as we care for creation. Let's talk to our friends and neighbours, and care for the planet alongside them. Let's remember it's all part of the same mission of being Christ's disciples.

Ian Moore

Season of Creation 2026

Theme, text, symbol

This year's theme is "Living Water" and the chosen text is Ezekiel 47:1-12. Ezekiel's vision describes waters flowing from God's temple, bringing life, healing, renewal, and abundance to all.

From the Season of Creation celebration guide, we are particularly guided to think about verses 9 and 12:

⁹ *"Wherever the river flows, life will flourish—great schools of fish—because the river is turning the salt sea into fresh water. Where the river flows, life abounds."*

¹² *"The river itself, on both banks, will grow fruit trees of all kinds. Their leaves won't wither, the fruit won't fail. Every month they'll bear fresh fruit because the river from the Sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."*

(translation: The Message)

This year's symbol (below) depicts water flowing from the temple and is intended as a symbol of renewal. It invites Christians to a spiritual immersion - praying together while contemplating water from rivers, sources, fountains, baptismal fonts, lakes and sea, inspired by the Spirit of God, working together for the renewal of Creation.



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Ian Moore

Season of Creation

If you're looking for something new to do to mark the Season of Creation, here are a few suggestions for things you can do this September and/or all year round.

- Go see a film

Not any film, go see *this* film, "The National Emergency Briefing". This film draws on a wide range of expertise to document the impact of our fast changing climate. It's not party political, and helpfully offers solutions we can all embrace.

There's a showing at St Johns in Coney Hall on 12th September at 7pm. Book your tickets by going to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/film-night-the-national-emergency-briefing-on-climate-change-tickets-1996438366898>.

- Read a book

There's loads of books out there on the climate crisis and solutions. Some are heavyweight academic or policy tomes, others much lighter.

I'm currently reading "Through the Gateways of a Garden" by Chris Polhill. The book is about Beaudesert Park in Staffordshire – the unique pilgrimage garden (really 5 gardens in one) that she and her husband have planted and curated to reflect various spiritual themes, from the Loving Creator to the Resurrection.

I have a small bookshelf of this and other items if you want to borrow something!

And if you're about to buy a book, consider buying second hand online from [World of Books](#). They claim that buying preloved emits 46% less CO2 than new. If you're a bookworm, what's not to like?

- Download an app

Ever been out in the woods and wondered what bird you just heard? Try downloading the [Merlin app](#), which identifies birdsong. We've used it in South Hill Woods (tick - a song thrush), in our back garden (the app confirmed a tawny owl was out there, we didn't see it unfortunately) and also on Arne Heath in Dorset where the nightjars were amazing!

Continued on next page

- Start recycling something you don't at the moment

In Bromley we've got good household collections for paper, glass, plastics etc, but did you know you can also recycle wine bottle corks at [Majestic Wine Warehouse](#)? There's a use for old running shoes and fleece jackets too – take them to [Snow + Rock](#). Hopefully everyone knows about the collection box in [Boots the Chemist](#) for all those tablet blister packs, as well as toothpaste tubes?

- Do some gardening

Last term the Rainbows unit made a bee bath for the pollinators that visit the lavender in the garden outside the church kitchen. Could you do something similar?

- Lobby your MP / local councillors

The [Climate Coalition](#) is doing great work keeping the pressure on politicians to take meaningful action, and runs powerful campaigns that are easy to join. Find out more by signing up on their website.

By the way, West Wickham's MP, Liam Conlon, is very supportive, and he's very receptive to hearing from people who want action on climate change.

- Start planning for June 2027

[Great Big Green Week](#) will be back on **6 to 14 June 2027**. This year more than 1.6 million people came together in local community events, to take action for their communities, for nature and for the climate crisis.

- Pray

You'll find lots of prayer resources at A Rocha UK, [Tear Fund](#), [Green Christian](#) and other Christian environmental charities. The URC is promoting CreationTide on Sunday 6th September – look out for their [daily devotions](#) too.

Ian Moore

SEASON OF CREATION



Our Prayer Handbook has a great prayer by URC General Secretary (1992-2001) Rev Tony Burnham (no relation to the Prime Minister) titled **‘THE REPAIR SHOP’** to which Bryn has added a third verse to focus on care for our environment.

*Gracious God, another week, another Sunday
and the possibility of coming to the Repair Shop;
bringing to you our broken and blemished selves,
to be serviced, mended and restored.*

If we're distressed in any way,

physically weak

or mentally agitated;

feeling lost, alone or weary,

we need your attention and care.

*We'll meet here the skilled carpenter, the man from Nazareth,
present in us – who gather in his name.*

Another week, another Sunday

*and the possibility of hearing in the Repair Shop
your old word, sharpened and made new.*

We can use the crafts and skills you've given us;

to be listeners, carers and servants;

together being the body of your Son.

May we share your forgiving love

with our brothers and sisters here,

with our families and friends in need,

and with strangers from afar.

Another week, another year, another decade

*and the possibility of encouragement in the Repair Shop
for action to rescue and restore your Creation*

from past excesses and misuse,

for resolute approaches in the present,

for future benefits for our children's children and beyond.

As we celebrate the love of Jesus in our lives

reconnect us with your created world

to fulfil the stewardship you require of us

in sheer thankfulness for your wonderful world.

Every week, every day,

we thank you for this church, and all churches,

powered by your Spirit –

your Repair Shops in the world.

Bryn



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church at Emmanuel will be meeting at **10am** on **6th September** with the theme **Season of Creation**

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS



6th – Janet Godden
13th – Revd Bryn Thomas with Communion
20th – Marion Moore
27th – Messy Church Team with Ian Moore –
HARVEST & Parade

HARVEST SERVICE & PARADE is on



27th September and will be led jointly by the
Messy Team, Ian Moore and Guides & Scouts.
Remember to bring your Harvest gifts!



HARVEST LUNCH



Don't forget to book your place at the **Harvest Lunch** on
27th September – More details on page 25.

EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP are back on



8th September with a full programme, starting with
opening service led by Revd Bryn Thomas
More details page 11.

Rosemary



Church Family News

A number of young people with connections to Emmanuel have recently received their A level and GCSE results – we offer them our congratulations and best wishes. We know of one young lady, Nya, who is *starting* school and we wish her well for this adventure; and similar best wishes to other children and young people joining one of Julie's groups, starting school, moving up to secondary, or beginning with Emily's youth activities.

Now it is **congratulations** time: Emily Dubourg and David Best are getting married on 5th September; Margery and Ray Young celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 3rd September; and we also hear that Rev Jack and Mrs Pat Beeson celebrated *their* Diamond Wedding on 6th August. We offer our cheery good wishes and our prayers to them all.

In a complex treatment plan Tracy Dawkins will undergo some further surgery in the next week or two, while Mrs Janet Dawkins, still in Coloma Court, continues to recover her mobility following the surgery on her leg and foot a few months ago. Carol is helping them both and keeping the family show (with the dogs!) on the road.

We continue to uphold:

- Tim Mott and his wife Nancy in Canada
- Christine Jackson
- Monica Duncan
- The Dawkins family
- The Douglas family
- Julie Lord's mother and father

Let us try to keep the grapevine active, particularly if you know someone is in hospital. Thank you for getting in touch with news about family or about yourself. The usual numbers are: 020 8462 5860 or 07957 858 878. Voicemails (landline) or texts (mobile) are fine. Email: brynthomas@uwclub.net. Meanwhile this September, enjoy the Season of Creation!

Bryn & Sue

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Breaking news as I write this letter: it has rained in West Wickham today!! Real, heavy rain!
Haven't we had a dry, hot summer? Just the kind people pay much and travel overseas for. It's not the same living through it as it is going on holiday where we have air-conditioned rooms and no meals to cook or housework to do, is it?

I can't wait to hear what your experiences have been during our Fellowship holiday. I hope it has been a time where some good memories have been laid down.

There is plenty of interest as we begin our weekly meetings again. With three guest Speakers who are new to the Fellowship, here's what we have on offer for you in September:

8th	Reverend Bryn Thomas leads our first meeting with a gentle, thoughtful service.
15th	Michelle Ernout will give a talk entitled ' Around the beehive ', followed by a beeswax candle-making workshop . There will be a cost of £1.50 per candle . *Please let me know as soon as possible – preferably by 8 th September – how many candles you would like to make.
22nd	Nick Dobson: will give a light-hearted talk, ' A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Potting Shed! '
29th	Mette Breminer: will bring us a delightful adventure called ' Mini Mi – A Journey through History in Miniatures '

I look forward to seeing you again.

Wishing you every blessing,

Sue Thomas, on behalf of the Fellowship Committee

*mobile: 07984 326 415

Community News Update

Hello from the heatwave, I hope by the time I write next month the rain will have finally had a turn but for now it has been great to take in our outdoor spaces this month! With the start of the school Summer Holidays too it's been a pleasure to chat to people using our garden spaces and benches for some relief. I've met a few people who have moved to West Wickham in the last few months and they're enjoying finding out about our area, with a few visiting us at Warm Welcome to meet even more neighbours!

In order to keep informed and represent our church in the area I regularly go to meetings with the local Residents Association and Police Safer Neighbourhood Panel, the last of which we host bi-monthly in the Hewitt room at Emmanuel. They are very grateful to us for the space in the heart of the neighbourhood and to welcome our local councillors, police, residents and business owners to positively work together is always a privilege. There have been new police members drafted in locally to try and tackle some of the issues around crime in our area; please pray for the Met team including Laura Hunt our local sergeant, Rhys Jones our constable and David Kay our PCSO as they work hard to keep our residents and businesses safe.

Another local group I'm representing Emmanuel in is the West Wickham Christmas Lights which is a fundraising and action committee to make sure we have lights in the High Street. It's a lovely group of local residents, business owners and representatives and a great opportunity to start conversations around the High Street in general. I'm running a fundraiser quiz night on Friday September 25th at Wickham Halls so please let me know if you'd like to know more or get a team together!

As ever please let me know if you'd like to chat or have suggestions of how we can serve our community.

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

Thought for the Month

‘My Thoughts’

Isaiah 55 verse 9 reads:

‘For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.’

Sometimes we come to God in our prayers asking Him to guide us, but we have already made up our minds what we are going to do and just want God to agree with us!

So, remember, make your plans (as we must) but sometimes they do not work out, then God shows us a better way.

We have been hearing a lot about God’s kingdom at Sunday worship. It reminds us not to be earthbound because our true home is in heaven. But that doesn’t excuse us from carrying out God’s work now according to His ways and thoughts.

Can be a bit tricky sometimes!

Keep trying!

Chris Cutler

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

(Ecc 3:14)

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

Dear Friends,

This letter is designed to give you an indication of the denomination's central finances but is necessarily a brief over-view. Your church (or group) treasurer has a letter giving more detail which we are sure they will be delighted to share with you.

In recent years, on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund, we have seen a gradual decline in church contributions and the shortfall on synod's pledges have been made up by the synods themselves.

We are hugely grateful to the synods for their generosity but recognise this is not sustainable over the long term. It is also of concern that the weakness of church contributions weakens the covenant that binds us together as a denomination, namely that those with resources contribute to supporting those who have less.

The central URC budget for expenditure (for 2026) includes a number of areas of expected costs reduction, significantly in staffing. Some very hard choices have been made and implemented. On the other hand, the URC needs to buy in expertise that we need for our world of increasing regulation and oversight, in view of the scarce resources available from volunteers. We hope that at local church level you will take a moment to reflect on the expertise (paid and unpaid) that steers the URC through all we have to do to be compliant with complex regulation. (Please pray for us!).

We know you have some of these challenges at local level too. We hope that one of the outcomes of the Church Life Review and Church Life Fund going forward will be the availability of URC resources and advice that can be accessed by local congregations. Ask your Church Secretary about these and look at this year's General Assembly decisions.

The annual audited accounts of the URC (for the year ended 32 December 2025) are now finalised and were published just before General Assembly. You can find a copy at <https://urc.org.uk/trustees-report-and-financial-statements/>. The accounts of the M&M Fund (the greater, but not only part of the URC Trust finances) show our total income £670,000 ahead of budget, but our costs were around £610,000 higher than expected. The deficit for the year on the M&M fund was around £650,000. We had hoped for much better.

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So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Children & Families at Emmanuel

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

Children and Family groups, run by Julie

Wow! What an August.

I have organised three stay and play sessions, a parent and child craft activity afternoon and a board games afternoon. Thank you to everyone that has helped.

Over the course of these sessions we have had been joined by so many families, some of whom I have met before and others who are new to me. It has been truly wonderful!

During the Summer Holidays, Giggles and Grow and Blissful Beginnings have continued to run, but at the time of writing we are having two weeks off!

All groups restart on 8th September.

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.

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Time Together Thursdays

Time Together Thursdays is for 2,3 and 4 year olds. We have toys to play with, themed craft activities, snacktime made by the children, singing, dancing and stories.

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.

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.

Julie & Emily

Just a Thought:

In between the Discourses...

We have seen how Matthew reads his collection of sayings and stories, and realises that Jesus' preaching can be grouped into five blocks, which we call Discourses. We may also ask, '**But what did Jesus actually do?** Where did he go? It wasn't only preaching, was it? How about the **In between** accounts?

This month we look at **8-9**, then **14-17**. (The Discourses are 5-6-7, 10, 13, 18, 24-5)

8-9 He now shows how those principles work out in positive ways in Jesus' life. Of course, it is all about healing. There is a wow factor in the sheer quantity...

- a man with a skin disease, - a centurion's servant (note: involves a Gentile),
- Peter's mother-in-law, - two men (only one in Mark) with demons, which Jesus sends into the pigs, who rush downhill into the lake. (Gentile territory pigs...),
- a paralysed man (in Mark he is lowered through the roof...) Permitted to forgive?
- the daughter (thought to have died) of a synagogue leader, the story linked to:
- a woman with dysmenorrhea for 12 years who touched the hem of his garment,
- two blind men, - a demon-possessed man who was unable to speak.

He went about the area 'proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every kind of illness and infirmity'. A repeated theme is the faith of the people involved. Significantly, the next chapter – ch10 Discourse 2 – is when Jesus encourages the disciples to go out and heal... He had shown them how!

Given the gathering gloom of criticism in **11-12**, there is a positive feel about **13** – the Parables of the Kingdom – Discourse 3. God's Kingdom *does and will* come.

In **14**, how is this Kingdom portrayed? In the feeding of the 5000 – with food, and more importantly, in spiritual nourishment. Jesus first has to cope with the death of John the Baptist in the most appalling circumstances: as in grief he tries to get away, the crowds follow him, so 'his heart goes out to them': he cures their ailments and speaks to them. He then appears walking over the water at night: they thought, terrified, this was a ghost; but Peter declares, 'You must be the Son of God' – a big moment in Matthew's account.

Continued on next page



We move on to chapter **15** and a particular incident in Gentile territory concerning the Syro-Phoenician (or Canaanite) woman. Her daughter is seriously ill ('a demon'). For her, he is the guru from Galilee: he is nearby. The disciples discourage her. Jesus is aware of something special here – he remains thoughtfully silent, even when she calls him 'Son of David'. We allow for the lack of 'stage directions' – the look on her face and on his, the tone of voice, the irony when he means the opposite of what he says, a touch of humour. The words seem to show Jesus as uncaring and insulting. That cannot be so.

Reading between the lines... He says that his ministry is only for Jews. Desperately she throws herself down at his feet. He says that it can't be right to throw food for the children (=Jews) to the dogs (= Gentiles) – she is down there, where a dog might be. His wry smile and his caring tone of voice show that he is not rejecting her, nor intending any insult in using the word 'dogs'. Then this distraught mother, this strong, intelligent, emotionally intelligent woman, counters Jesus' statement by meeting him on his own level: 'Even the dogs eat the leftovers that fall from their master's table'. Jesus commends her for the faith that undergirds this exchange. When she gets home, she finds that her daughter is healed.

A feminist interpretation claims that this strong woman actually changed Jesus' mind about his ministry being not just for Jews but for all. She is, indeed, a strong woman who joins in the word-play about lost sheep, children's food and Gentile 'dogs' – Jesus meets his match; but he has already cured Gentiles and been really active outside Jewish territory, so this is not the first time...

Chapter **16** takes him further along the north, to Caesarea Philippi, where Peter's declaration that he is 'the Messiah, the Son of the living God' stands on the crescendo that began earlier after Jesus walks at night over the water – and culminates in **17** when Jesus is joined on the mountain by Moses and Elijah in The Transfiguration. In Matthew's terms this is literally and figuratively a high point in acknowledging the status of Jesus, paralleled by 'they knelt in worship' in the very last verses of the gospel. While this movement of increased recognition goes on, there is a comparable increase in the menacing criticism and threats to the life of Jesus. **16** gave us the first prediction of suffering, **17** the second, and **20** will provide the third. The downward course to crucifixion gathers momentum.

Bryn

THE SEIGE OF MASADA⁹

During my April 1968 visit to Israel I took a bus on a long journey to a fortress by the Dead Sea.

On arrival at the fortress called Masada I booked into a Youth Hostel conveniently situated at the base of the fortress. I got talking to an attractive Israeli girl soldier and in the evening she took me outside the hostel and pointed to a large bonfire glowing in the distance by the side of the fortress.

Although it was dark you could see in the light of the bonfire that some kind of activity was going on. The girl soldier told me that the Israeli Tank corp. were having a swearing in ceremony, where the young recruits would swear never to surrender. She said that 2,000 years ago King Herod the Great built a palace in the fortress and had enormous cisterns cut in the rock to collect the infrequent rainfall and large store rooms were built to fill with foodstuffs so that if necessary they would be able to withstand a long siege. Some years later nearly 1,000 zealots took over the fortress in defiance of the Romans who had invaded their country. In response the Romans sent in 15,000 men, many of them Jewish prisoners of war in order to take over the fortress. The Jewish prisoners were used to build a ramp up the side of the fortress walls and construct a siege tower and a battering ram and also build about a dozen siege camps surrounding the fortress. When the siege ended about two years later and the Romans entered the fortress the Romans found that everyone was dead.

The young girl soldier told me the story with pride and said how meaningful the swearing in ceremony was to the new recruits. I remembered that the previous year in 1967 Israel was fighting for its survival against its surrounding neighbours who wanted to drive them into the sea. On reading up about this history I found that it was a splinter group called the Sicarii (the dagger people) and not the true zealots who took over the fortress in 73 -74 CE in opposition to the Romans and some of the happenings are not altogether clear.

The following day I took a steep zigzag path which was on the Dead Sea side of the fortress and walked to the top. I was alone and later found out that there was an easier path on the other side.

You can still see the remains of the siege camps and the ramp and of course the cisterns, store rooms, walls and much of the palace. There were very few

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visitors to the fortress which surprised me for such a spectacular and awesome site. I believe that a few years later it became one of Israels top tourist attractions.

Two thousand years ago the Romans put down the Jews but they didn't break their spirit.

However I fear with the way the Palestinians have been treated in Gaza and the West Bank that in twenty years time the young Palestinians who have grown up in such difficult conditions will seek revenge against Israel.

John Manuel

Personal Thanks & Announcements

Dear all,

On 26th September, I will be taking part in the Chiltern 50 Ultra Challenge 2026 walk in aid of the British Heart Foundation. This event has been organised by my workplace, and I truly feel it is a worthy cause. I have opted do the 25km walk so that I can also take the opportunity to enjoy some of the stunning views the Chilterns has to offer.

During my lifetime, I have encountered people who have unfortunately had some sort of heart issues so I feel this is my way of helping. By raising money, many people can be helped, research can be done in the UK, and with that knowledge, people can be helped globally. To coin a phrase "*Charity begins at home*"!!!

If you are able to support me by making a donation, I would truly appreciate it. To donate, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/flora-kumi-1>

If however, you wish to donate by giving a cheque or cash, please let me know and I'll arrange collection.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Flora



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 **desperately in need** of the following items:

Tinned Soup	Tinned tomatoes	Tinned Tuna
Pasta sauce	Cooking oil	Tinned meals (curry, pies, chicken in sauce, ravioli, mac cheese, etc.)
Cereal	Baby wipes	Shampoo

Other items that would be appreciated are:

Tinned puddings	Tinned fruit	UHT milk
Squash	Pasta and rice	Beans
Empty washing up bottles	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



at Harvest

Our **Harvest Festival Parade Service and Harvest Lunch** is on Sunday 27th September when we hold our annual **Commitment for Life Appeal**. This is always well supported and in giving we can help others in need.

Commitment for Life is the global justice program of the United Reformed Church that links local British congregations with vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel/Palestine.

Emmanuel supports the work of Commitment for Life in Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, the scheme partners with organizations like Christian Aid to fund climate-smart agriculture, health, gender equality, and food security projects. During the last year I have written of ways your money has helped individuals. Last year we raised £2,250. It would be wonderful if we could top the amount this year.

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

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

Pat Best



Please join us for a Harvest Lunch on
Sunday 27th September

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

The Richmond Hall at 12.30pm for lunch

You can book a place for the lunch with me (Janet Pickering).

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

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

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

*Last orders by Tuesday 22nd September please,
so we can finalise numbers. Thank you*

We look forward to seeing you then.

Janet Pickering and the Catering Committee

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

**Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer
care better for everyone, whoever and
wherever they are**

Date: Friday 18th September
Place: Emmanuel United Reformed Church,
The Grove, West Wickham
Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm
Contacts: Janet Pickering or Pat Best

1. Bring along a cake (or two) for sale
2. Enjoy a piece (or two) with your drink
3. Why not buy some to take home later!!!

**Every contribution (cake or
money) will be gratefully received**



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (664). Also operating in Northern Ireland: MAC20383

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Quiz—No. 18

Supplied by Lawrence White

1. Which fashion designer created the 'little black dress', the informal cardigan suit, costume jewellery and perfumes?
2. Where in S.W. France is a cave system with prehistoric wall paintings? It was discovered in 1940.
3. Elsa Einstein, second wife of Albert Einstein, was born with what surname?
4. What connects muscles to bones in the human body?
5. Who was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia?
6. What is the name of the rivers that run through Aberdeen, Rostov and Sheffield?
7. How many Celtic languages can you name?
8. The first UK road built to a motorway standard was a by-pass of which town (now a city)?
9. The usual layout of a computer keyboard in the UK is QWERTY. What is the same layout in Germany?
10. Who kissed the girls and made them cry?
11. What garment is a Tam O'Shanter?
12. What is the last book of the New Testament?
13. What village were two disciples heading towards when they were joined by the resurrected Jesus? (Luke's Gospel)
14. How many great great grandparents do people normally have?
15. What is the smallest state in mainland Australia?
16. How is the character William Terrence Fisher better known? He was created by Keith Spencer Waterhouse (1929-2009) and played on screen by Sir Tom Courtenay. (b 1937)
17. Who had a number 1 UK hit in 1954 with 'Whatever will be, will be' (Que sera, sera)?
18. What is the dominant ethnic group in Kenya?

Answers can be found on page 39

A farewell and a welcome

In the middle of August, we said “farewell” to **Tony Stephen** who has been our caretaker for just over 8 years.



Over those 8 years, Tony has become a very familiar, always cheerful presence around the buildings. He’s probably hoovered, mopped, wiped and dusted pretty much every square inch of the premises. And moved chairs and tables for countless meetings. He’s painted, changed lightbulbs, done the fabric drape on and erected the Easter Cross, mown the lawns, watered the plants, the list goes on and on.

But above all, he’s been a welcomer, making people at home here, responding to queries, and throwing open the doors with a smile.

On his last day, we were able to celebrate with Tony (and his wife Pauline) over lunch. Among the gifts he was given was his very own Henry Hoover!

Thank you Tony, we will miss you.

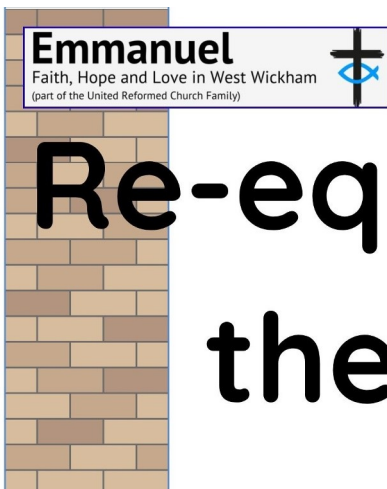


We’re also delighted to welcome our new caretaker, **Andrii Tkach**. Many of you will have already met Andrii, as he is Zhanna's husband and has already helped out a number of times over the last year or two when we’ve needed caretaker cover.

Please join me in welcoming Andrii.

Going forwards, Zhanna will be working Monday/ Tuesday/Wednesday and Andrii will be working Thursday/Friday. I’m sure we are going to be very well served by them both.

Ian Moore



Re-equipping the site



Re-equipping the site – summer update

Thanks again to everyone who came and viewed the architects plans and ideas back in July. Around 50 people took time to read and think through what they saw in the feasibility study, and we had comment forms from over half.

The steering group (Unity, Janet P, Nick, Ian M) has now been through each and every comment form, and we've found it really helpful to see what reactions people have had. It's interesting to see where different people place different priorities, and also where there is already some emerging consensus.

At the moment, though, we are a little in a pause mode. We're still progressing the heating system study, and really we have to know more about where this side of things stands before we can take anything else forwards. We expect to get that report at the beginning of September, and we'll be having another meeting of the steering group once it's in.

Then, hopefully, at that point we'll be able to start to create a more synthesised, integrated version of an overall project and priorities, which will form the basis of the next round of discussions with the whole church. We'll also start to talk more about the funding side of the equation, as understanding that is critical to setting an overall budget. Once we have that total budget scoped, we can start to work through the choices and trade-offs to be made.

Sit tight for now – and expect to hear more from us in a few weeks.

Ian Moore

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

The Season of Creation (1 September-4 October) is dedicated to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life. Join A Rocha UK's Season of Creation prayer and reflection webinar on Wednesday 2 September to start this season with others.

During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for his provision through the land and the food that it produces. If you are part of a church or community, suggest that a service or gathering has a Season of Creation focus. Prayers, worship, teaching and the offering could focus on creation. Could there be an activity with a creation focus too?

Explore more Season of Creation resources at: arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation

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- Photos on page 9 courtesy of Unsplash
- Prayer on page 13 contributed by Lilo Sutton
- Photo on page 19: Image of The Syro-Phoenician woman: © BibleHub/Wikipedia
- Photo on page 26 courtesy of macmillan.org.uk
- Photos on page 28 courtesy of Ian Moore

Coffee and Get-together

Sunday Coffee

We will be serving coffee after the church service every week.

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.

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

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

**For ages 0 to
confidently crawling**

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

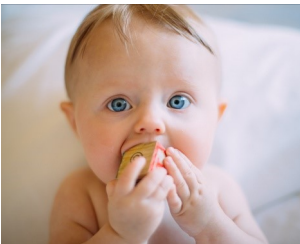
The Emmanuel Art Group usually meets on Thursday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm at Emmanuel URC Church, The Grove, West Wickham, BR4 9JS.

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 153215

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.

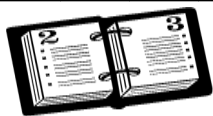




Church Diary for September

Friday	4th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 31)
Sunday	6th	10.00am	Messy Church (details on page 3)
		10.30am	Worship led by Janet Godden (details on page 3)
Tuesday	8th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 11)
Wednesday	9th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	10th	10.00am - 11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	11th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 31)
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Communion service led by Rev Bryn Thomas (details on page 3)
Tuesday	15th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 11)
Wednesday	16th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Friday	18th	10.30am - 12.30pm	Macmillan Coffee morning (details on page 27)
		10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 31)

Continued on next page



Church Diary for September continued...

Sunday	20th	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore (details on page 3)
Tuesday	22nd	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 11)
Wednesday	23rd	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	27th	10.00am - 11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	25th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 31)
		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Harvest Parade service with all the uniformed organisations (details on page 3)
		12.30pm	Harvest Lunch (details on page 25)
Tuesday	29th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 11)
Wednesday	30th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)



Church Diary for October 2026

Thursday	1st	10.00am - 11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	2nd	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 31)
Sunday	4th	10.00am	Messy Church
		10.30am	Worship led by Nigel Macdonald (details on page 3)

Quiz Answers

Quiz on page 27 supplied by Lawrence White

1. Coco (Gabrielle) Chanel (1883-1971)
2. Lascaux, the Vésère Valley in the Dordogne. Realistic paintings of aurochs, horses and red deer, of the upper Paleolithic period, about 15,000BC
3. Einstein, she was his second cousin
4. Tendons, strong fibrous connective tissue
5. Amy Johnson (1903-1941) She took off from Croydon Airport on 5.5.1930 and arrived on 24.5.1930
6. All called the Don
7. Celtic languages are a branch of the Indo-European family, in two groups. Brythonic (Welsh, Cornish, Breton and Gaulish) and Goidelic (Irish, Scottish and Manx Gaelic)
8. Preston. Opened 5.12.1958 by Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and is now part of the M6
9. QWERTZ
10. Georgie Porgie
11. Hat. It is a cap with a broad circular flat top
12. Book of Revelation
13. Emmaus, 7 miles from Jerusalem
14. 16
15. Victoria (87,854 sq miles, 227,600 sq kilometres) It became a state in 1901
16. Billy Liar
17. Doris Day (born as Doris Kappelhof 1934, d 2019) The song came from the musical Calamity Jane
18. Kikuyu. Their language belongs to the Bantu branch of the Niger-Congo family

Emmanuel Church Contacts

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