

THE
OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2024
TO FEBRUARY 2025



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Message From the Minister

Dear Friends,

I just want to send you a quick Christmas message. It's important for us to be able to talk about the Christian faith with our loved ones and people we meet. Christmas is not just a family and commercial celebration. It is also a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The birth of Jesus is a real historical event. It has also given rise to some wonderful stories. These stories tell us about the incarnation of God. Christmas is the Incarnation and Easter is the Resurrection. Both the incarnation and the resurrection are Christian doctrines, but they are also operations of the Spirit. In the same way that mathematical operations change numbers, or a surgical operation heals or repairs an organ, the operations of God's Spirit transform us and the world. Through incarnation the divine enters our world. The divine comes in the body of a man, Jesus Christ, and through his words and deeds we receive what is divine in our lives, in our communities, in our peoples. It is a message of peace and reconciliation, an encouragement to respect life and all creation. We listen to this message together and commit ourselves to respect it and put it into practice.

We need to encourage the people around us to listen to it, to turn to God. You know as well as I do that the people around us are atomised, with their noses in their smartphones. The world offers us infinite images and information at any one time, scattering our energy. In the Christian faith, we have only one thing to look at, Christmas: the crib with the baby Jesus. The gathered Christian community looks at him. We have a single source: the Bible and its Gospels. It is this simplicity and truth that brings us together. They will continue to bring together all people of good will. We must invite them and tell them about our faith.

I wish you all a happy Christmas!

Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal



Join us on Friday December 20th

Carol Singing

In the neighbourhood
Meet at the church at 7.00pm
Collection for
Action for Children

Moderator's Christmas Letter



As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, we are reminded of Mary's song in the Gospel of Luke, often called the Magnificat. Mary's song of praise reminds us of the joy and hope that comes from faith in God's promises.

In her moment of awe, Mary proclaims, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." These words echo through the ages, inviting us to reflect on the miracle of the Incarnation. Mary's song is both deeply personal and universally hopeful. It reflects her humility and gratitude to God, who chose her to bear His Son, Jesus.

This Christmas, let us join Mary in glorifying the Lord for the gift of Jesus, who brings light into our darkness and hope into our despair. Mary's hymn also calls us to recognise the transformative power of God's love. She sings of the mighty being scattered, the proud being brought low, and the humble being filled with good things. In a world often marked by division and strife, we are reminded that God's kingdom upends worldly values and lifts up the marginalised.

As we celebrate Christ's birth, let us embody this spirit of humility and service in our Church and community. Additionally, the Magnificat encourages us to remember God's faithfulness throughout all generations. Just as God fulfilled His promise to Mary, we can trust that God is at work in our lives today.

In this season, let us share the good news of God's love and grace with those around us, being containers of hope and joy. As we gather for worship and fellowship in the coming Advent weeks, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and our spirits renewed. Let us celebrate the miracle of Christmas together, proclaiming with Mary the greatness of our God.

Thank you to all who participate in the life and witness of God's church. We are the visible face of Christ.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Bridget

Moderator for Southern Synod, United Reformed Church

OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITY

One again our Christmas Charity is Crisis.

All the Friday and Sunday coffee money during December will be donated to Crisis, as will the money collected from the Christmas Card Tree and half the Christmas Get-Together.

Any other donations will be welcome.



Christmas Events 2024



Friday	29 th Nov	Decorate the Church for Christmas
Saturday	14 th Dec	11.00am Churches Together in Sidcup Carol singing in High Street Prayers at 9.30 at St Johns.
Sunday	15 th Dec	10.30am Lessons & Carols at Emmanuel.
Sunday	15 th Dec	4.00pm Mayoral Civic Carol Service at St Johns.
Friday	20 th Dec	7.00pm Carol singing in the neighbourhood for Action for Children (numbers and weather permitting).
Sunday	22 th Dec	10.30am Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowel
Tuesday	24 th Dec	11.15pm Midnight Christmas Eve Circuit Service (Communion) at Bromley Methodist Church.
Wednesday	25 th Dec	<u>10.00am</u> Christmas Day Service shared with the Pastorate - at Geddes Place with Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal.

Love in a Box

Thank you to all those who donated a ' Love in a box '.

19 boxes were collected from Emmanuel by Mustard Seed on Monday 18th November.

They are now on their way to bring a smile to many children's faces this Christmas.

Judith



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON
GET TOGETHER**

**ON SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER
FROM 3PM
IN THE CHURCH HALL**

There will be mince pies,
Homemade cakes and bakes
And nibbles with a nice
Cup of tea or coffee
Plus

**GIFTS AND TREASURES
and of course**

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Free entry — all donations are for
Crisis At Christmas and the Nassio Trust
which supports our sponsored
children in Kenya (seen opposite)



Gabriel



Jackline

Christmas Tree Festival

Orpington Methodist Church

December 14th - 21st 2024

Grand opening:
Saturday 14th December 2pm

Standard Cost to enter a tree - £10
Cost for Charities to enter a tree - £5
Free general admission (donations welcome)

Contact - christmastree@om.church
Phone - 01689 828391

Supporting local charities:
Bromley Brighter Beginnings and Living On



Christmas Card Tree

As usual there will be a Christmas tree for you to decorate with Christmas cards to your Church friends, and give a donation to our Christmas Charity which will as usual be Crisis.

Thank you to Olive Lewis who started this idea many years ago. I am sure Olive must be delighted that the Christmas Card Tree has become a tradition at Emmanuel. Please help to support Crisis with your generous donations.

THE 2024 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

Raising funds for **CASPA**
CANCER AND STROKE SUPPORT AND RESEARCH

Saturday 30th November to Sunday 8th December
Come and visit our Winter Wonderland!

Saturday 30th November 11am – 5pm Dance Show: 2-4pm	Sunday 1st December 12noon – 4pm
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Monday 2nd to Friday 6th December
Open daily 10am – 1pm & 3 – 5pm

Saturday 7th December
10am – 4pm

Sunday 8th December
12noon – 4pm

Chislehurst Methodist Church
Prince Imperial Road BR7 5LX
Office: 020 8468 7695
chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk
chislehurstmch@gmail.com @chislehurstmethodistchurch

CRISIS our Christmas Charity

Our decades of supporting people experiencing homelessness informs all areas of our work - from our services, to our cutting-edge research and the political changes we campaign for. By understanding the immediate pressures of homelessness, as well as the wider societal pressures that push people into homelessness in the first place, we can solve homelessness for good in Great Britain.

Our services

We work directly with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in 9 areas across England, Scotland and Wales. We provide practical one-to-one support to help people access benefits, healthcare services, employment opportunities, and more. Our main aim is to relieve the huge pressure of homelessness, by helping people find safe and affordable homes as quickly as possible.

Every person who turns to us for support is treated as an individual, with dignity and respect. How we support someone depends on their individual needs and situation.

We prioritise supporting people who find it difficult to access or are excluded from services that should be there to prevent or end their homelessness. This includes people with complex needs such as physical and mental health issues, substance use and a history of trauma and abuse. It can also include non-UK nationals and those seeking asylum.

Housing

All of us need a decent home – to be healthy and to thrive. That's why one of our main goals when working with people experiencing homelessness is for them to find safe and affordable homes as quickly as possible. We provide the tools and knowledge to help people rent, budget, and maintain their homes successfully.

We also work with landlords to secure a supply of affordable homes for our members.

Research

Our cutting edge research helps us to understand and highlight the scale, causes and impacts of homelessness.

Campaigns

With collective action and political will, we know we can end homelessness for good. Our campaign work is shaped from our direct work with people experiencing homelessness and helps tackle the societal pressures that push people to the brink.

For further information or to donate go to <https://www.crisis.org.uk>

Mandy Laundry Eulogy

It is an impossible task to try to find the words to sum up Mandy. She was unique, a force to be reckoned with and as someone once said about her: "once met, never forgotten!"

Mandy Nim Chu Chow was born on 22nd November some time in the 20th Century, to Chan Yee Ngar and Chow Ping Sun. Her Chinese name means "Pearl" and she must have been as precious as a pearl in the eyes of her parents being the youngest daughter. Mandy had 2 older sisters: Lily and Anne.

Mandy was a diligent, courageous and compassionate person. She finished her secondary education in St. Pauls Co-ed, a top-notch school in Hong Kong. She joined a wig company as a secretary after graduation. A trip to the UK to attend an exhibition was one of the turning points of her life. She met her husband Paul Laundry who was working for the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. And the rest, as they say, is history! Soon after that initial meeting she married Paul and moved to the UK. Having gotten married in the UK, Mandy wanted to include her family in the celebrations so sent a slice of wedding cake to Hong Kong – well, given the postal service in the '70s, you can imagine what state it was in when it arrived, much to the amusement of her nephew Albert who remembers seeing cream smeared all over his letterbox!

With the birth of their daughter Claire-Leigh, Mandy gave up her work as a PA for a Spanish firm and whole-heartedly took care of the family but she didn't stop learning. Mandy was willing to give anything a go and was always a keen learner - some of the many languages she dabbled in over the years include Japanese, French, Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Mandarin, Sign language and even a couple lessons in Albanian! When not learning languages, she spent a lot of time volunteering: first as a class assistant in primary schools and then at the church, helping with the Parent and Toddler group, Messy Church, coffee mornings and Friendship Group – to name but a few! She joined the Royal Astronomical Society and attended lectures with Paul, and loved going to see operas and ballets – but only the ones with a happy ending! She also enjoyed her piano, ukulele and singing classes, although Maggie the cat was not a fan of the singing and often gave her a firm tap to get her to stop practising.

Speaking of cats ... To say Mandy was a 'cat lady' was something of an understatement. Mandy loved cats as much as her daughter. After having to suffer years of nagging from Claire-Leigh, she "persuaded" Paul to agree to get a cat and Maggie was the first of five rescue cats followed by Olly, Lucky, Meea and Theo. When Claire-Leigh went away to university, Maggie became the favourite daughter and Mandy and Paul spoiled her rotten, whether that was taking her for holidays in Wales or going to Currys and asking the rather shocked sales assistant for 'a microwave big enough to fit a cat.' (Maggie liked to lie on top of it). Last year, not to be deterred by a terminal cancer diagnosis and about to embark on a vigorous round of chemo, Mandy adopted "Theo" the stray white street cat who persistently came knocking on her door – word must have

gotten around the cat world that Mandy was a soft touch!

When she wasn't looking after the cats, Mandy loved travelling both in the UK and abroad. Some highlights include touring Scotland with the Davies/Laundy clan, introducing herself to Sir Michael Palin in the middle of dinner onboard a cruise when Paul was too shy to do so, visiting Russia during the Cold War and being heavily scrutinised by the KGB, walking the entire length and breadth of Chicago and Washington DC at the insistence of Claire-Leigh, and their final family holiday in 2019 when they went to Malta for a bit of winter sun and ended up getting drenched every day.

When Paul died suddenly in 2021 it came as a huge shock to the family. Mandy took it in her stride as best as she could. However, more shocking news was to come. In 2022 Mandy got told she had terminal pancreatic cancer. Mandy dealt with this in typical Mandy fashion – on the way home from the hospital after receiving the news her most important concerns were 1) how she was going to break the news to her sister Anne, 2) did we remember to tip the Uber driver and 3) how she was adamant she didn't want to be on any prayer-lists as "God has enough to worry about". She endured 2 courses of chemotherapy and was a favourite amongst the doctors at Guy's Cancer Centre as she always remembered to ask them if they had had their lunch. Mandy bravely fought the disease with sheer grit and determination and the only thing that slowed her down was a major stroke in August of this year which left her bed-bound

'A stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet' was one of Mandy's life mottos. Some of you have known her since childhood whilst many of you sitting here today probably came to know Mandy through a chance encounter or what started out as a brief conversation. Mandy was known to pop out to the High street, a brief five minute walk, and be gone for hours because she'd met so many people she knew. Mandy once went to a concert, got talking to a stranger in the row in front, and by the end of the evening had walked away with the lady's home-made scarf! Never mind the now infamous time in Staffordshire when, tired from waiting for her own food to arrive, cheekily asked the strangers at the next table for one of their chips! Mandy was kind and polite to everyone whether two-legs or four-(including always saying thank you to Alexa) and there was nothing Mandy wouldn't do for a friend – she would give you the clothes off her back. She took this to its very literal meaning when her friend Diana arrived in the UK to embark on a cruise with nothing to wear for the "formal dinner" nights as the airline had lost her luggage. Meeting up in London the night before the ship was due to set sail, Mandy gave her the cardigan and skirt she was wearing and came home just wearing a slip and vest!

We are grateful to Claire-Leigh for sharing Mandy's eulogy with us. We are sure you will all have your own special memories of the times you shared with Mandy

Ed



Services for December

1	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Communion
8	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
15	10.30am	Elders	Lessons & Carols
22	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	
24	<u>11.15pm</u>	<u>Bromley Methodist Church</u>	Circuit Midnight Service
25	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>Geddes Place</u>	Pastorate Christmas Service Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal
29	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	Circuit Service Emmanuel

Services for January

5	10.30am	Mr Tony Ball	
12	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Communion
19	10.30am	Mr Paul Ayliffe	
26	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	

Services for February

2	10.30am	Mr Jim Holman	
9	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
16	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	
23	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Communion

Memorial Book

At the beginning of the year I decided I wanted to add my mum's name to the church memorial book.

The company who do the calligraphy in the memorial book is based in Leatherhead, so the book has to be taken to them. As the book hadn't been sent away for new entries for a few years an article was put in the Church Outlook magazine offering to include any other entries.

Laurence and I took the memorial book to Leatherhead along with eight new entries. The company was tucked away off of a station approach road. They were so welcoming and went through all the entries individually to check everything was correct. We were introduced to the ladies who completed the pages. They worked by a huge window and used table easels to rest the book on. It was fascinating to watch them at work – very talented ladies.



After a few weeks we were able to collect the completed book and have it back in its rightful place at Emmanuel for Remembrance Sunday


Pam Bush


Here are photographs of the new entries in month of death order as in the book.

Ed


 **D**zieiko, Joan Madeline, née Duke
Died 18th January 2018.

 **Howlett, Sidney Charles**
31st May 1946 -
24th June 2021.
Always in our thoughts,
forever in our hearts.


 **Sawyer, Doris Lilian, née Mann**
Fondly known as Nanny Dragon.
Born 24th March 1923.
Died 8th February 2020.
Aged 96 years.
Love's last gift, remembrance.

 **Wilson, Doris Gertrude**
Born 7th November 1918.
Died 16th July 2022.
Aged 103 years.

 **Wilson, Philip John**
Born 5th February 1951.
Died 8th February 2022.
Aged 71 years.

 **Brown, Colin Arthur**
Born 31st January 1945.
Died 11th September 2023.
Fondly remembered
and deeply missed.

 **Pater, (Hilda) Winifred, née Hurst**
Born 9th July 1926.
Died 8th March 2019.

Seal, Rene Dorothy
Born 3rd March 1934.
Died 2nd November 2016.
A life long member.

Remembrance Sunday Service

The Church was well filled to commemorate Remembrance Day. It was good to see the uniformed organisations on parade.

As the names on the memorial plaques were read out, photographs of the servicemen were projected onto a screen. The service was conducted by the Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal and refreshments were served in the church afterwards.

Church Family News

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mandy on 18th October in the Sidcup Care Home. Many of us attended her funeral on 18th November. It was a moving celebration of her amazing life. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter, Claire-Leigh, who had been a constant support to her mother during her long battle with cancer.

Sadly, Freda had a fall at St Margarets resulting in a complex hip fracture and has been in hospital for six weeks. She has now moved to Coloma Court Care Home in West Wickham. Please pray for Freda and her family at a difficult and worrying time

Marion has had a heart attack and after treatment in hospital has been resting at home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and also with her son, David, and daughter, Stephanie, who are both unwell.

Eileen England died on November 11th. Eileen attended Christchurch but supported Emmanuel and enjoyed coming to coffee mornings. She was very involved in Guiding. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son.

Doreen Still misses coming to Emmanuel. Her husband needs regular care and cannot be left, but Doreen enjoys the printed services sent from the circuit each Sunday.

Remember those who are not able to get to Church at the moment. We think of Olive Lewis, Doreen Still, Eileen Taylor, Colin Seal and George Smith and his wife, Elaine, who is in Northbourne Court..

It was good to see Juliet at Mandy's funeral. She is very well and keeping busy in her retirement.

Judith

Message from Nantymoel

Just a quickie to share. After 10yrs of treatments and Clinical Trial medications since diagnosis and operation, I've had 2yrs with no return of the Breast Cancer and, at annual check up recently, was Discharged from Velindre Cancer Hospital Clinical Trials Clinic, stated as 'Cancer Safely Inactive', and rang the special bell!

God bless you all, with love from

Heather P. (Nantymoel)



Thank you Heather. It's good to hear your news. We are always delighted to hear from old members who have moved away.

Ed

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Liturgical Date	First Reading	Psalm
Nov-28	1st Sun of Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10
Dec-05	2nd Sun of Advent	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79
Dec-12	3rd Sun of Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6
Dec-19	4th Sun of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55 or
Dec 24 & 25	Nativity - Proper I	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96
Dec 24 & 25	Nativity - Proper II	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97
Dec 24 & 25	Nativity - Proper III	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98
Dec-26	1st Sun after Christmas	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148
Jan-06	Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Jan-09	Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29
Jan-16	2nd Sun after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10
Jan-23	3rd Sun after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19
Jan-30	4th Sun after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6
Feb-06	5th Sun after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalm 138
Feb-13	6th Sun after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1
Feb-20	7th Sun after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Feb-27	Transfiguration Sun	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php>
 Make sure you select the correct year (A, B or C)

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
Nov-28	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec-05	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec-12	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec-19	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
Dec 24 & 25	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Dec 24 & 25	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Dec 24 & 25	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
Dec-26	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
Jan-06	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan-09	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan-16	1 Corinthians Psalm 36:5-10	John 2:1-11
Jan-23	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan-30	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Feb-06	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Feb-13	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Feb-20	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
Feb-27	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Churches Together in Sidcup

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Service Sunday 19th January 4pm
at Sidcup Baptist Church

380 Embroiderers 51 Countries and 1 Dress



The Red Dress is a large silk dress covered in ornate embroidery created in 51 different countries around the world. 380 artisans have stitched onto the dress over the last 13 years, 367 women / girls, 11 men / boys and 2 non-binary individuals.

The Red Dress project was created by British artist Kirstie Macleod, an artist now living in Somerset. She wanted to create a work that would bring together individual voices and stories from around the world without borders,



boundaries or prejudice, to show what is possible when we collaborate and come together supporting one another..

Constructed out of 87 pieces of burgundy silk dupion, from 2009 to 2023, pieces of the Red Dress travelled the globe being continuously embroidered onto. The burgundy red silk is richly coloured and smooth with a slight shine to it. The embroideries have been created using hundreds of different coloured threads of varying thickness, some are loud others subtle, some are smooth while others are metallic and shiny.

Some of the embroideries include bright tropical flowers from South America, tribal figures of women in patterned clothing from Kenya, a large gold lotus created in Bombay stitched with tiny metal coils and crystals, geometric patterns from Afghanistan and a large spider's web covering much of the back of the bodice from the UK.

The embroideries vary in size, shape and style. Each artisan was invited to create a motif that shared a part of their identity and culture. Some used designs specific to their family, village or town, while others told stories from their past. All commissioned artisans were paid for their work and receive a portion of the exhibition fees.

Many of the women who created the embroideries are living as refugees, recovering from war or experiencing extreme poverty. For these women the Red Dress can help to share their stories with the world.

The Red Dress is now being exhibited around the world in many different museums, galleries and event spaces, so Kirstie can share the garment and it's stories around the globe.

It has just been on display in India and until December 5th it will be on display at Hawkers Farm, Stour Provest in Dorset in the old milking parlour which has been converted into an Event Barn.

What a powerful message of embroidery from an initial idea on the back of a napkin.! I would love to see this amazing dress one day.

Judith



Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.00am to Noon.

Come for a coffee or tea and biscuits and have a chat with friends.

All donations for church funds.



Sunday Coffee Rota



Dec	1	Ann and Maryia	Jan	19	Judith & Maddie
	8	Judith & Maddie		26	Roger & Christine
	15	Roger & Christine	Feb	2	Ethel and Maureen
	22	Pat & Marion		9	Pat & Marion
	29	Pam & Jennifer		16	Pam & Jennifer
Jan	5	Ethel and Maureen		23	Ann and Maryia
	12	Ann and Maryia			

Pastorate Update

A Pastorate meeting was held on October 28th. After devotions by Rodolphe, news from each church was shared and prayers were said for those who were unwell.

Reports on current activities were shared by each Church.

Rodolphe reported on his work and outlined his future plans .

Future events include:-

An Advent Course at Bexley URC each Tuesday from Nov 26th to Dec 17th 10.30am to 12.00noon.

Christmas Day a joint Pastorate service at Geddes Place 10.00am.

Pastorate lunch t Sophies Choice Jan 21st at 12noon.

A Maundy Thursday was confirmed at Geddes Place

A few copies of newsletters from Bexley and Geddes Place are available at the back of the church. You are welcome to take them to read but please return them for others to borrow.

Judith

Many thanks for your ongoing generosity
to theManna Society

Many thanks to Emmanuel Church for your Harvest Festival gifts once again this year. The food that we have received will be used throughout the next twelve months to provide meals to some of the poorest members of our society.

The work we do here is a practical and compassionate response to poverty and homelessness. The majority of our funding and our foodstuffs come from the Christian community. Without the continuing generosity of our supporters, we would be unable to continue our work.

A breakfast, a hot, nutritious meal and washing facilities are available 7 days a week, Housing & Welfare advice five days a week, a clothing store once a week, three medical surgeries weekly and access to computers from Monday to Friday. On an average day we see about 120 people. Approximately 50% of our service users are rough sleepers, 15% in secure socially rented accommodation and the remaining 35% in some form of temporary accommodation (hostels, friends & privately rented accommodation) – June 24 statistics. In addition to the services mentioned above, we offer a place of respite and acceptance.

In the 12 months to April 2024, we assisted 609 clients via our Housing & Welfare advice service. 379 were seeking accommodation and we succeeded in finding accommodation (both permanent & temporary) for approximately 60% of them. We are dependent on voluntary donations to raise approx. 88% of our annual £580,000 budget. The gap between our income and expenditure has grown substantially in the 23-24 year. Any help you can give to help us address this deficit would be very much appreciated and will benefit some of the poorest members of our society.

On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity please accept our thanks.

Best wishes,

Paddy Boyle Manna Society Administrator

PASTORATE LUNCH

A two course lunch (main and desert) is booked for

12 noon on 21st January 2025

at

Sophies Choice

The cost will be approximately £22 (drinks extra)

Please give your names to Judith

A Chance Meeting

Would you like to hear about
An old gentleman I met
He had his dog beside him
Who was as black as jet

I'd been walking through the park
I sat down next to him
We introduced ourselves
He said his name was Jim

We come here every day he says
Me and my old Sal
I don't see so good now
So I rely on my old pal

We talk about the weather
And the price of food
He tells me he has Meals on Wheels
And that they're very good

He says he's seen some changes
And not all for the better
He can't get a rent rebate
They told him in a letter

This man was in the Navy
He got torpedoed twice
I said tell me all about it
He answered "Well is wasn't nice"

"I often wonder mate what it was all about
We fought to keep this country free"
He smiles a little cynically
And told this little poem to me.

"England is a free country
Free without a doubt
If you haven't got a dinner
Then you're free to go without"

He said "I miss my lovely lady
She's gone for a rest you see"
"But when my time comes
I know she's waiting there for me"

"We shall have to go now
My old Sal and me"
"We have to get on home
She looks forward to her tea"

We agree it's been a pleasure
He say "It's been nice talking to you gal"
And then I watch them walk away
Jim and his Old Pal

Elsie Goodman

We enjoy your poems, Elsie. Keep writing!

Ed

Food Bank Report 20th November 2024

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Avery Hill Christian Fellowship Food Bank. It is very much appreciated by the Food Bank and the people who find themselves in a very difficult situation.

Their Current Needs Are:

Cleaning Products including washing up liquid. *	Small packets of sugar *
Small packets of washing Powder. *	Noodles
Deodorants Men * & Women *	Razors Men *
Shampoo* Conditioner*	Coffee
Shaving foam **	Tea *
Bars of soap	Biscuits
Porridge	Jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter **
Meat in tins **	Potatoes in tins or mash
Tins of Fish *	Female Hygiene products Tampons **
Long life milk *	Tinned Spaghetti
Fruit in tins*	Squash to dilute *
Vegetables in tins & Tomatoes **	Toothpaste **
Ready to eat Custard & Rice Puddings *	Tinns of Soup *
Fruit Juice in Cartons (Long Life) *	* means they have low stocks
Toilet Rolls *	** out of stock
Kitchen Rolls	

They currently have plenty of:
beans, pasta and cereals .

Please Note

The closing date for copy for the
March / April / May Outlook will be

Thursday 23rd February

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please plan ahead and make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar.

If you can write anything that might interest others,
please do so and send it to me for publication.

There is no charge for the magazine, but donations are welcome to help with the cost of paper and ink and postal charges.

Tony Howard Ed

Emmanuel.church.outlook2@gmail.com



Emmanuel Church Sidcup

We had a meeting on the 23rd October 2024 to discuss the future of our Messy Church and it is with deep regret that after lengthy deliberation and soul searching, we unanimously decided that after over 11 years we must end. We are getting older and it seems to be a sign of the times that younger people don't have the time to step into our shoes.

All our wonderful Messy Angels agreed that it has been fun and we have enjoyed every minute, despite the hard work. We will sadly miss all those happy tired little faces, going home on a Messy Saturday Afternoon, grasping all their wonderful "crafty" things that they have made.

Thank you, thank you all you wonderful Messy Angels who have given up so much of your time, money and most of all your love which I am sure will remain in the good memories of our Messy Families for ever.

We have accumulated over the years lots of paper, card, paint, glue and scissors etc. etc. which the Beavers and Rainbows might be interested in. Some will go, of course, to Emmanuel Church Playgroup. We do have, between us, a wealth of craft ideas so if anyone is interested, please let us know.

On behalf of Emmanuel Sidcup Messy Church

Roger

Winter Prayer

Lord, In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce, remind us of the warmth of your love.

When days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early, remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

When the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak, remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul.

Missionary Society of St Coloman

Klondike Chapel

This is a photo we took of a chapel in Caribou Crossing, British Columbia, Canada that was built during the Klondike Gold Rush of the late 1890's and is still in use today.

Peter



This simple frame building, St. Saviour's Anglican Church, was originally constructed on the south side of the channel between Lake Bennett and Nares Lake in 1904. Its construction was arranged by Bishop Bompas three years after he moved to Carcross, formerly Caribou Crossing.

There were problems with the location however: the Anglican Church did not own the land and the building was within the 100-foot reserve next to the water. Consequently, Bishop Stringer arranged to move the building to a site on the other side of the Narrows in 1917.

In 1903, St. Saviour church saw the foundation of the Chooutla Residential School, the largest residential school in the Yukon.

<https://destinationcarrcross.ca/project/churches/>

3rd Sidcup Scout Summer Camp Littlehampton and Angmering 2024

This year we travelled further afield for our Summer camp to a small Scout District site called Furzefield near Littlehampton and Angmering. Eight Scouts joined us for the week packed full of activities.

We arrived on the Saturday and set up camp for the week and went for a gentle stroll for our night hike with views across the coast. Sunday we practiced our Scouting skills for a pioneering project and our group famous camp Olympics.

Monday we completed a day hike on the hottest day during our time away which lead us onto a more chilled day swimming in Arundel Lido and going out for Pizza and bowling in the evening.

Wednesday was a jam packed day at Lodge Hill activity Centre where we learnt Fencing (this got quite competitive) and Sno Tubing which is jumping on a big rubber ring and going down a large slope. In the afternoon we tried out the man made tunnels built on site and finished with a climbing activity on the high wobble board.

Thursday we had an early start as we needed to beat the tides and wind so we could attempt to learn windsurfing and paddleboarding before having a game of crazy golf and ice cream to cap the day off.

Friday we went back to basics and cooked on open fires, honed our camp craft skills and took most of our tents down ready to depart on the Saturday. This meant the Scouts slept under the stars for the final night away. We all had a great week away and next years camp is already being planned.

Kevin 3rd Sidcup Scout Group





3rd Sidcup Group Camp October 2024

We hosted our first Group Camp for many years at Frylands Wood Activity Centre near Croydon at the start of October. We had fifteen Scouts and Cubs camp (indoors) for the two nights with Thirteen Beavers and two Cubs joining us for day on Saturday which meant over eighty percent of the group joined us for some part of the weekend which was an amazing number.

The weekend included climbing, tunnels, assault course, slacklining to name a few of the activities we took part in. The weather turned when trying to cook on an open fire so we retreated indoors and cooked our burgers and sausages on our camp stoves while playing board games. We all had a great weekend and I know I slept well when I got home as we didn't stop.

Until next year!

Kevin 3rd Sidcup Scout Group





Property Matters !

You may have noticed that all the fluorescent lights are now working., (except the high ones in the Hall).

Our regular electrician, Julian, has replaced nine of the old units with LED versions which are brighter and should last a long time. Working tubes from units where only one had failed were used to replace failed tubes in other units.

Other work that has been done in the last year includes:-

A failed water heater in the church toilet was replaced. A new electric water heater was fitted in the hall kitchen. The chimney stack on the Rainbow room has been repointed. Gas boilers and fires have been serviced (and repaired). The electric cooker door was damaged by persons unknown and has been repaired. The organ has been serviced. The grass is cut regularly.

Keeping the buildings running takes a lot of effort and money (£7897 this year.)

Tony

Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival



Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th December
11am - Seven Poor Travellers' Procession
12Noon - Main Parade
4.45pm - Candlelit Parade
5pm - Carols for Christmas (in the snow)

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OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER

Rev. Dr. Harold Martin	1968
Beatrice Mary Adams	1983
Kathleen Mary Worrall	1987
Christine Leighton Watkins	1990
Joan Mary Stephen Purry	1994
Margaret Anthony Oatridge	2002
Bert Runacres	2004

JANUARY

Arthur Brinley Davis	1969
Joseph George Kearsley	1978
Lily Oswald	1988
Mabel Brunton	1990
Vincent Sawyer	1983
Gillian Averil Lister (née Huett)	1991
Marjory Treacher	1995
Ernest John Reader	2000
Elsie Runacres	2001
Geoffery Betts	2003
Pat Stephenson	2011
Joan Madeline Dziejko	2018

FEBRUARY

Henry Russell Verinder	1981
Maurice Adams	1985
Lilian Thompson	1986
Thomas George Brawm	1956
Rose Brawm	1979
Andrew James Bruce Boland	1979
Edith May Davidson	1985
John Clifford Davidson	1950
Florence Emily Wellman	1995
Elsie Jackson Watson	1999
Agnes Hutchison	2000
Sydney Charles Upson	2000
Evelyn Frances Ellercamp	2002
Doris Lilian Sawyer	2020
Philip John Willson	2022

Weekday Activities

Monday	9.30 - 11.00am 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Toddler's Play Group 3 rd Sidcup Beavers 3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3 rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10.00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10.00am—noon 4.45pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning 6 th Sidcup Rainbows 6 th Sidcup Brownies 4 th Sidcup Guides



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