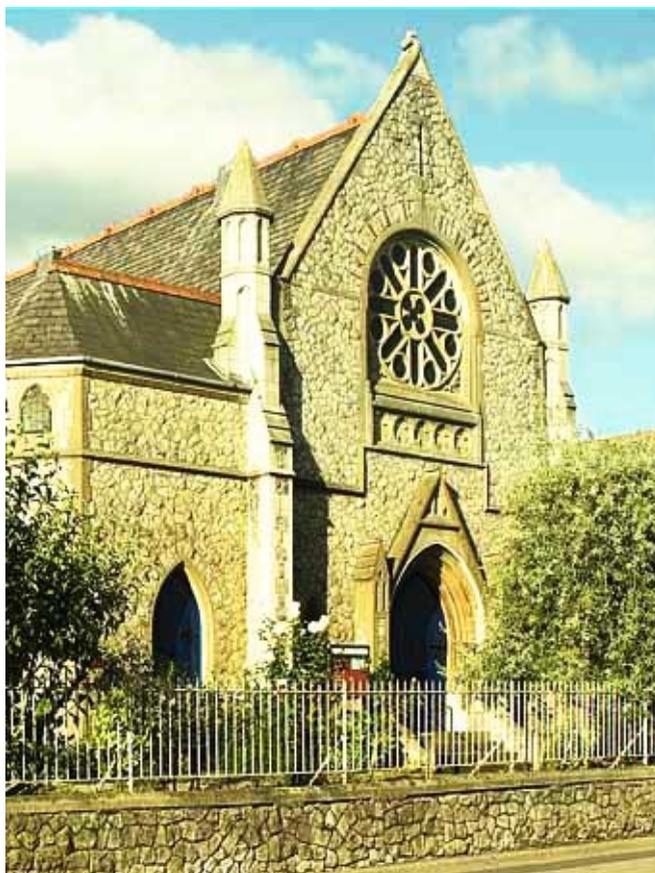


THE
OUTLOOK

SEPTEMBER TO
NOVEMBER 2023



Emmanuel Church Sidcup

Methodist and United Reformed

Minister's Pastoral Letter for September 2023

Dear Friends,

It's back-to-school time. At this time of year our prayers go out to children, young people and all those involved in teaching and education. We pray that they will all have a good year, filled with improvement and the joy of learning, and without disruption.

On Saturday 19th August my induction service was held at Geddes Place. It was a very heartfelt moment and I felt welcomed by the Pastorate, the Synod and the ministers and leaders of our neighbouring churches from *Churches Together in Bexley*. Some of you were able to be there, but for those who couldn't, below is the personal statement I read that day. It's in seven points and each point corresponds to a day of the week.

I wish you all a happy September and, for families and children, a good start to the school year.

Sunday "Glory to God!"

I remember myself as a teenager reading the Bible in my bed at night when my brother was seriously ill, in a coma and almost dying. In the Gospels I met Jesus as a healer. Like any teenager, I had questions about the meaning of life. I came to see Christian discipleship as the way to find the right direction for my life. It was also then that I realised that the Reformed Church of France was my church, the Christian family in which I felt at home. I was baptised in this Church. Virginie and I married in this Church. Our children were baptised and raised within the Reformed Church of France. I love its history, the many stories about heroic efforts from the poor Protestant French people — the Huguenots — to keep their faith alive in a very hostile context.

Monday "Ecumenism"

I was born in 1972, as was the United Reformed Church. The ecumenical movement is important to me and I'm very proud of the very ecumenical nature of the URC. It's basically Jesus' explicit wish and prayer that we are united. Also 50 years ago another important ecumenical document was signed by most of the European Protestant churches, the Leuenberg Concord. These churches affirmed their full communion and also made it easier for ministers to move from one denomination to another.

Tuesday "Music"

I'm not going to talk a lot about music. Music is something that you play, that you do, that goes well with prayer and meditation, that brings peace, but also energy. I love music and I expect to share many musical times with you.

Wednesday “Animals”

I think it's very important that the minister is also a theologian, someone who has an intellectual research that helps to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, to accumulate knowledge to share with others, to be inspired by authors. I am doing a doctorate, a doctoral research on animal theology. I'm writing a thesis that I hope to finish and defend next year. This research is transforming my thinking. It tells of God's love for all his creatures and his will to save them all. It tells that creation is not all about us, humans. We are not the centre of everything. These thoughts imply a rigorous ethics and a way of relating to non-human animals, other creatures. I believe that other liberation movements like the fight against racism or the inclusion of gay people in the church was a piece of cake compared to this fight for animal rights — this effort to bring the Peaceable Kingdom closer. This ethics means not using them, not hurting them, not exploiting them, not killing them, but having a Christ-like attention, care and kindness toward them all. That's why I'm committed to total abstinence from meat and other animal products. I think it's not only good for me, but it's a solution for the whole of humanity, in this time of environmental crisis. I think Christians should be at the forefront of this movement.

Thursday “Friendship”

Friendship means a lot to churches. It's often thanks to a friend that people become members of a church. It's through friendship that groups of children and young people are formed. The concept of 'friend' has changed over the last few decades, especially when a new way of befriending someone appeared, when you could just click on a button on Facebook. Christians have a deep understanding of friendship that we need to promote again in the world. Jesus encourages us to love our enemies.

“If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? [...] If you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others?”, says Jesus (Mt 5:46-47).

We have to bring our salt and light to the world through Christian friendship.

Friday “Youth”

It seems that our pastorate has a lot of work to do to reconnect with the young people of the community. This will be my main concern over the next few months. It is a wonderful asset here, in Greater London, that there are many churches, we are surrounded by many sister URC and Methodist churches, their specialised officers, and so many other churches, and of course the great Church of England. That will be very helpful. I will be looking to our neighbours for inspiration, to all those who have faced similar challenges and found the right ideas and initiatives to address them.

Saturday "England"

I'm happy to be here in England with my family. We loved being in Scotland. It's such a beautiful country. We really enjoyed our 6 years in Scotland. But we were also excited to move, to discover another country, another context, another environment.

So, with my family, we are learning not to say any longer [with a Scottish accent]: "I don't know, or a dunna ken, or nae bad", as they say in Aberdeen. Now, we are going to get used to say [with an English accent]: "I don't know, you're alright, Okay, brilliant, fantastic, fabulous, great!"

There is something special about the English people. You English share something with the Jews and are world famous for something nice and precious: your humour.

So — no pressure — but when I am with you, I expect to laugh a lot, loudly and often. We have big challenges, a lot of work to do together, but fortunately we have God-given humour to help us."

*Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal
52 Faraday Avenue
Sidcup DA14 4JF
Tel: 07484 257534*

"GOOD-BYE FROM HIM"

- with apologies to Ronnie Barker!!

The "front page" is now penned by Rodolphe and I go along with this 1300%! It has been a truly wonderful ending to our nearly three year wait but we now have a minister who is sufficiently energetic and forward looking to really get the pastorate moving again. Hence this last little letter to Emmanuel.

You may consider that a three year wait is a very long time but I fear that this period will be viewed with great satisfaction by other pastorates in the future. The number of ministers is reducing very sharply.

It has been a great privilege to have been Interim Moderator to the pastorate in general and Emmanuel in particular. Three years have passed only too quickly. A lot has been learned and many new friends made. I will continue to peruse Outlook to keep in touch with developments and promise to join you for worship sometime in the not too distant future. And a particular thank you to the four serving elders for their unstinting support and counsel.

So I sign out with very happy memories and the real satisfaction that we have a more than capable minister to lead us.

God bless all of you.

Colin Watson

Ruth Dunster 7 July 1928 to 27 May 2023

Welcome, I am Ruth's son, Graham. Thank you so much for joining us today to celebrate Ruth's life.

Ruth Ellis was the second of four girls, born above her grandparents' shop and reading room at 19, Plymouth Road, Barry, Wales. Her mother, Angharad, was then 29 years old and her father, Seymour, was 27.

She grew up in Bristol, living in Clifton, Sea Mills and finally Shirehampton with her sisters Margaret, Gwyneth and Dorothy. Seymour, whose family home was Pill on the River Avon, followed his family's path to become a Bristol Channel pilot. During his training he spent periods of time away at sea, so the girls were used to a matriarchal family and Ruth exuded independence throughout her life. Unusually for the 1930s they had a telephone in their house to notify Seymour of incoming ships so the girls became used to neighbours and friends dropping by to use it, being connected by the operator and speaking their message quickly. As children my sisters and I stood on the windowsills in the house at 337 Portway to wave to our grandfather as he piloted ships up the river to the city – he would sound the ship's horn and wave his white handkerchief to us.

Childhood memories she has shared include having her earlobe nicked at the male barber's whilst having her hair cut, spending many hours with her sisters in the newly built public library and hiding their books when they went home for lunch to ensure they would still be there when they returned, the Rupert Bear comic strip in the Daily Express, visiting her maternal grandparents in Merthyr Tydfil where she helped with the horse drawn delivery milk run, ladling milk into customers' jugs, putting the cardboard tops on the milk bottles and licking the cream off lids, leading to a lifelong love of dairy products. On VE Day she and her sister Margaret slipped out to celebrate with the sailors in the town centre.

At school Ruth was sporty, playing in the hockey team, as well as participating in athletics and swimming. She used the tokens awarded for her prowess on sports' day to buy a Box Brownie camera. Later her

competitive nature lead to her winning the mother's race at our junior school so often that she had to withdraw to give the other parents a chance.

Having successfully matriculated from Colston's Girl' School she went to London to train as a nurse at Westminster Hospital, where in 1950 she became a registered nurse. She was initially paid £40 per year and was on duty for 96 hours per fortnight working a six day week. Stories we remember from that time include sunbathing on the roof of the nurses' accommodation, fire drills where they had to knot bedsheets to climb down from upper storey windows, preparing donor corneas to correct cataracts and going to social events with other education institutions. It was at a ball at the University of London that she met our father, Dave Dunster, and they were married in December of 1952.

Ruth recounted how the wedding was held on a cold, wet day, when it rained so much that the photographer's camera was impacted - the photographs certainly reflect this. One year later to the day along I came, soon followed by Jennifer in 1955, Elizabeth in 1958 and Margaret in 1960. Despite having started training as a midwife and passing all the examinations this new family meant that she became a full time mother (we didn't know how lucky we were) until we were all safely in school, whereupon she retrained as a teacher and worked with children in Sidcup, later returning to nursing at Queen Mary's hospital, in both consultants' clinics and A&E.

Ruth embraced life as a wife and a mother, moving from Essex to Eltham to Sidcup, dictated by Dave's employment. We recall that she used to cycle everywhere, apparently having to be persuaded not to cycle to the hospital for the arrival of her first two children as there would be no way to ride home! The third and fourth births were at home in Eltham, so no problems there. Shrove Tuesday was always hectic with two frying pans on the go and a button payment system to hold us all in check in the pancake queue. At some point we inherited a budgie from Dave's mother which Ruth tolerated, only to be ambushed by me replacing it on its death having not realised she really didn't want one at all. Unfortunately this new one loved flying around the kitchen with all the attendant mess.

She was steadfast in putting her children first, ensuring that we always had good shoes, clothes and were warm and well fed. She had a strong community spirit, delivering meals on wheels to housebound people, aided and abetted by we children when available, running the local Eltham church Girl Guide troop and taking the guides on camping trips locally as well as to Switzerland and the Netherlands. Elizabeth has picked up this mantle, being a leader of the Sidcup Emmanuel Guides. When a school exchange student was stranded due to their host family suddenly being unable to take them in she started what turned out to be a long and interesting relationship with French and German people which allowed her children to go and spend time overseas as part of our education.

Ruth loved travelling, and did so all her life. From local and continental trips before being married, to family camping coach holidays on the railways in pre car years, spending a year in the United States on Dave's sabbatical year in the mid 1980s, based in Lafayette, Indiana, visiting Turkey, Iran and other exotic destinations and then house swapping with New Zealanders enabling her to bond with her grandchildren out there. During their time in the USA they visited every national park, throwing a tent in the back of the car. As she wasn't allowed to work she volunteered as a teaching assistant and also attended craft courses, creating many interesting artefacts. She made friends easily, always taking her relationships seriously and was an unparalleled asset to anyone with small children.

She knew that time is precious and always had a book in her bag, so could be seen reading whilst waiting in any queue. She was skilled at home baking, marmalade making and her organised thinking meant she could juggle anything in the kitchen – if you ever visited her there was always fresh food magically produced. I think we all learned how to be prepared, to think creatively and to consider other people. Being a grandmother to six children she had plenty of opportunity to educate (it's "Iain and I" not "me and Iain", and "leading not winning" at card and board games), to be inspirational and to be supportive of everyone's individualities.

Sometimes her thrift and frugality could go awry, such as the time the dropped piece of chocolate turned out to be a piece of soap, or the water saving action in the foreign campsite meant she was unable to rinse the soapsuds away, but her lack of interest in consumer culture was admirable, nothing would ever go to waste under her watchful eyes.

In 1987 she and Dave moved from Sidcup to Northfleet to support Dave in his new job as a minister in the North Kent group of churches. After Dave, who always quietly professed his devotion to her, died in 2014, Ruth returned to Sidcup and re-joined Emmanuel Church. She was an active member of the ladies' group, the Trefoil Guild and took part in life in Tudor Court – for instance changing her neighbour Lorna's dressings and similar actions until her health declined. Having been knocked off her bike by a drunk driver she had five hip replacements, a pacemaker, a stent and her heart, which was affected by rheumatic fever when she was a child meant that her final years were lived at a slower pace. She was fiercely determined to stay in her flat, living independently, and happily this wish was granted.

Everyone will remember Ruth in their own way. I suspect that many of the family will remember her as a fearless lady who would admonish strangers for dropping litter or smoking, with an attraction to stripey dresses – meaning that she was able to be easily identified by her granddaughter Angharad across a crowded railway concourse!

So, however you remember Ruth, I'm sure you will agree she was a force to be reckoned with. She was determined. She was strong. She was resourceful. She loved dairy foods! She helped a lot of people. She shared her knowledge and her time freely. And she made the most out of every opportunity.

If I could leave you with one thing, from reflecting together on Ruth's 95 years of extraordinary life, it would be this... live your life to the fullest. Have that ice cream for lunch. Take the opportunity to live on the other side of the world. Chat to the person at the bus stop. Turn your face towards the sun, close your eyes, roll up your skirt and enjoy the warmth. And always, always, lick the lid of the cream.

Graham

Visit to Weymouth

We had three lovely days in Weymouth staying with Jenni and Peter. We arrived before 10.30 on the Monday and the rest of the morning was spent talking. Good to see them both so well, happy and busy.

After lunch we all went to see Katherine and Gordon in their new home and delivered the present and card. It is a lovely house and garden with a great view of the sea and Portland Bill from their bedroom. They both look so relaxed and happy. Lots more chat plus delicious cake - we ate very well during our stay.



The next day Peter went to play golf - still playing on a Tuesday morning. The three of us went to Wimborne where we first visited the Model Village which is based on Wimborne in the early 1950's - good to see Woolworths and lots of banks. We were the only people there without accompanying children! From there we went to Wimborne Minster and then to Kingston Lacy, a National Trust property. Back to see Peter, who had also had a good day, before a pub dinner.

The weather on Wednesday was atrocious so we didn't get to the beach - one of us had hoped to swim the other to paddle - I am sure you can work out which. We spent the morning talking before meeting Katherine and Gordon for a pub lunch and yet more chat.

We know that Jenni and Peter, and Katherine and Gordon would love to see any of you if you are in Dorset. We certainly had an excellent time!

Jennifer and Maggie



A Message From Weymouth

To all my lovely friends at Emmanuel.

We love our present and are looking for the best place to put it — probably on the wall in the hall downstairs so that we can see it all the time. Thank you again.

We don't think about Sidcup, but do think of the people we love. Do remember that any of you are welcome to come and stay — maybe when we actually get some real sun!

It has been lovely to see Jennifer and Maggie and to get together with Peter and Jenni — like slice of Sidcup.

With all our love

Katherine and Gordon

Pastorate News

Peter and I attended a Pastorate committee meeting on 11th July

The meeting began with the sad news that John Prestage had died that week. John was a longstanding member of Geddes Place and until recently was the Treasurer. He will be sadly missed.

Rodolphe was welcomed to the meeting and news from each Church was shared.

It was agreed that a Pastorate service with Rodolphe as the preacher would take place at Bexley URC on a date to be confirmed. That date has since been arranged for October 1st (there will be no service at Emmanuel)

August 19th was confirmed as the date for Rodolphe's induction and Geddes Place as the host Church.

Judith

Rodolphe's Induction Service

What an inspiring induction service took place on August 19th at Geddes Place. It was a joy to celebrate Rodolphe's induction with a congregation from all three churches in the Pastorate. It was obvious from the happy atmosphere that members from all three Churches are very pleased to welcome Rodolphe as our Pastorate Minister. Virginie, Rodolphe's wife, sang a beautiful song accompanied by Adam Earle on the organ. Rev Bryn Thomas expressed his delight at Rodolphe's appointment and offered his support and encouragement to him. The Induction was conducted by Revd. Bridget Banks. She too was delighted to welcome Rodolphe to the Pastorate.

Rodolphe was presented with gifts from the Pastorate Churches and Rodolphe presented a Huguenot Cross to each Church. Representatives from other Churches offered Rodolphe a welcome greeting. As the ceremony drew to a close people were invited to enjoy the refreshments and the opportunity to mingle with each other.

It had been a memorable afternoon. We look forward to an exciting future with our new Minister.

Judith

The Huguenot cross

The Huguenot cross is a Christian religious symbol originating in France and is one of the more recognizable and popular symbols of the French evangelical reformed faith. It is commonly found today as a piece of jewellery or engraved on buildings connected with the Reformed Church in France, of which it represents the official logo.



The cross as an eminent symbol of the Christian faith, represents not only the death of Christ but also victory over death and impiety. This is represented also in the Maltese cross.

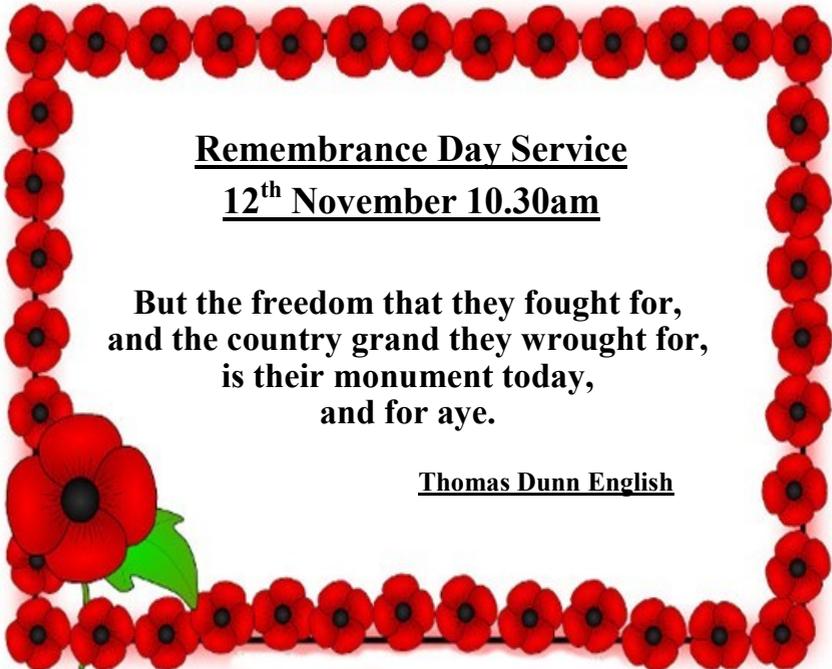
The *boutonné*, the eight points (on the Maltese cross) symbolizing the eight Beatitudes

Between the arms of the cross is the stylized fleur-de-lys (on the French Coat of Arms), each having 3 petals; the total of twelve signify the twelve apostles.

Between each fleur-de-lys and the centre, an open space in the form of a heart, the symbol of loyalty, suggests the seal of the French Reformer, John Calvin.

The pendant dove at the bottom symbolizes the Holy Spirit. In times of persecution a pearl, symbolizing a teardrop, replaced the dove.

Wikipedia (edited)



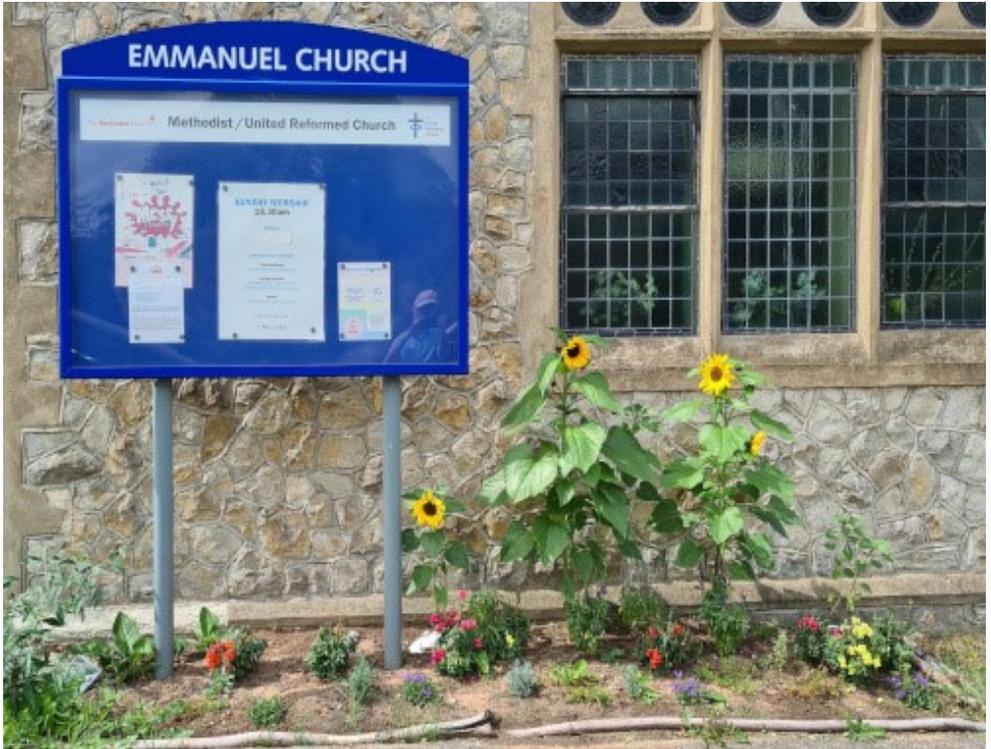
Remembrance Day Service

12th November 10.30am

**But the freedom that they fought for,
and the country grand they wrought for,
is their monument today,
and for aye.**

Thomas Dunn English

The Rainbow's Garden



You may have noticed the new garden under the Blue notice board and wondered who created it.. Here is the explanation.

Ed

The 6th Sidcup Rainbows have been busy planting their new Rainbow's flower patch. They were very grateful to receive a Waitrose Community Grant which they used to buy plants and soil to contribute to the church garden. We were also kindly given some sunflowers by one of our lovely Rainbows parents.

We look forward to watching the flowers flourish and hope you all enjoy seeing them as you walk by. Wishing you all a happy summer!

Ros Marchant

Pastorate Service

October 1st 10.30am Bexley URC

Preacher Rodolphe

Please join us.

There will be no service at Emmanuel.

Lifts can be arranged and it is on the 229
and 269 bus routes.

We hope Emmanuel will be well
represented at this Pastorate service.

This Magazine

Outlook has been Emmanuel's magazine for many years. Ernie Reader was the editor when we first started coming to the Church, followed by Cyril Skinner and Freda, after Cyril's death. Our son, Paul, kept it going for a few months until Tony took over in 2007.

The monthly edition became bimonthly and then quarterly. Initially 150 copies were printed but, as numbers attending Church have declined, that has been considerably reduced to half that number. We post copies to former Church members who have moved away but still love to hear about what Emmanuel is doing at present.

Recently we have been considering whether people still want Outlook. What do you think?

Please could we have your views concerning the future of our magazine. We are happy to continue but we do need your support. We feel it should be about the whole Church family and needs a wider range of contributions. We have tried to make sure it is not just a list of reports and rotas but rather news and activities of our church family members.

As we only publish Outlook quarterly, and each edition covers 3 months, if you do something, go somewhere or read something which you think would be of interest to readers, write about it at the time. There is no reason why you should wait until the closing date to send it.

We welcome your feedback . Please let us know your views. So many Church activities have had to stop as our numbers have declined, we really don't want to stop producing our magazine too!

Judith & Tony

Revised Common Lectionary

| Calendar Date | Liturgical Date | First Reading and Psalm |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sep-03 | 14th Sun after Pentecost | Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b |
| Sep-10 | 15th Sun after P'cost | Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 |
| Sep-17 | 16th Sun after P'cost | Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 |
| Sep-17 | 17th Sun after P'cost | Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 |
| Oct-01 | 18th Sun after P'cost | Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 |
| Oct-08 | 19th Sun after P'cost | Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 |
| Oct-15 | 20th Sun after P'cost | Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 |
| Oct-22 | 21st Sun after P'cost | Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 |
| Oct-29 | 22nd Sun after P'cost | Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 |
| Nov-05 | 23rd Sun after P'cost | Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 |
| Nov-12 | 24th Sun after P'cost | Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 |
| Nov-19 | 25th Sun after P'cost | Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 |
| Nov-26 | 26th Sun after P'cost | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 |

Decorate the Church for Christmas

Advent begins on November 26th

Come and help to decorate the church

On Saturday 25th November 10:30am.

Revised Common Lectionary

| Calendar Date | Alternative First Reading and Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel Reading |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sep-03 | Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 | Romans 12:9-21 | Matthew 16:21-28 |
| Sep-10 | Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20 |
| Sep-17 | Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 | Romans 14:1-12 | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| Sep-17 | Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 | Philippians 1:21-30 | Matthew 20:1-16 |
| Oct-01 | Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9 | Philippians 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32 |
| Oct-08 | Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15 | Philippians 3:4b-14 | Matthew 21:33-46 |
| Oct-15 | Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 | Philippians 4:1-9 | Matthew 22:1-14 |
| Oct-22 | Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 | Matthew 22:15-22 |
| Oct-29 | Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1 | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 | Matthew 22:34-46 |
| Nov-05 | Micah 3:5-12 Psalm 43 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| Nov-12 | (Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-2) (Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70) | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| Nov-19 | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12 | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| Nov-26 | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a | Ephesians 1:15-23 | Matthew 25:31-46 |

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)

3rd Sidcup Camp #INTENTS23

Saturday 5th to Saturday 12th August

Nine Scouts and three leaders went to Thriftwood Campsite in Brentwood Essex for #INTENTS23, a camp designed to provide a range of experiences for the Scouts to learn new skills and have fun at the same time.



We arrived on Saturday and set up camp in the rain, some of the worst we have ever had when trying to set up camp, with small rivers running through our site! The Scouts just kept going which was a credit to them for being so resilient.

Each day had a different theme such as: Survival, where the scouts learned about water purification, making rope out of

nettles and using a knife to carve a peg; Hydro, trying out different watersport activities; Creative, making woggles, a memory wall (photo below), glass etching to name a few. Rise, which meant climbing, Jacobs ladder, abseiling and zip wiring. International, learning about African drumming, dot painting, highland games and yoga.

Wednesday we had a day out to Southend where we spent the day at Adventure Island. Some Scouts were more daring than others with





the rides but all enjoyed the day especially the ice cream and fish and chips at the end of the day.

Friday night finished with a campfire and we arrived back on Saturday, dirty, tired but in the knowledge that we'd had a great week away.

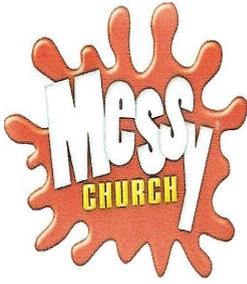
*Kevin – 3rd
Sidcup Scouts*



Cotswold 13 Mile Sponsored Walk for Alzheimer's

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. It was a lovely sunny day (30 minutes of rain only) - while you had rain all day. Beautiful countryside. With your help I raised £806 in total.

Maggie



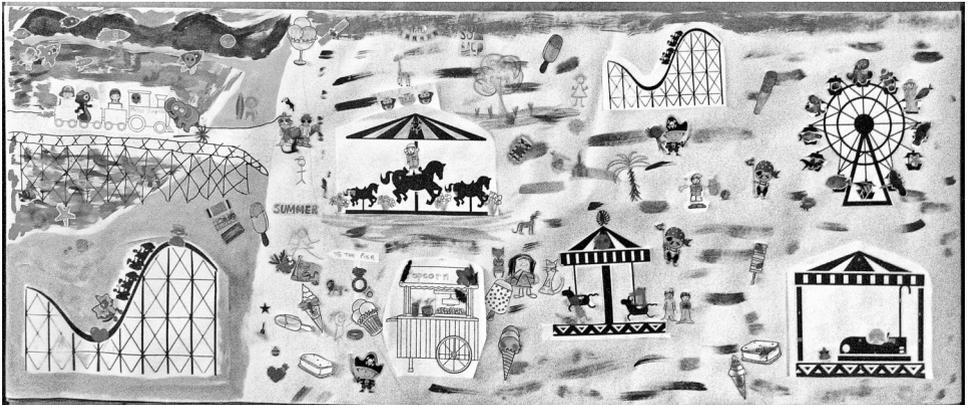
**Emmanuel Church is excited to
bring to the Church again
Messy Church!! 4.00 to 5.30pm
September 9th "Families"
November 11th "Remembrance"**

MESSY CHURCH 10th June 2023

Just before 4pm, Tracy was ready to greet and sign in the first families to arrive and by 4.10 the Hall was alive with busy children getting into the 'Holiday' spirit.

The seaside was the place to go! With help from Maureen, Emily and James, they could travel on their own Messy Church coach. They could create a colourful sand and blue beach scene with Cathy and replicate the same scene on a biscuit at Maddie's 'food table'. They coloured and put together a donkey with Ethel, and Roger helped them produce a very colourful fish picture, every scale was printed with small pieces of celery!

No trip to the seaside is complete without a fairground ride and there were so many to choose from on the Fairground scene on the Giant Table. With help from Sophie and Sam, everyone contributed to the picture with drawings, cut-outs and stickers of ice-creams, pirates, space-ships, animals and people enjoying themselves! This is the big picture which Roger took into the Church for all to see.



Hattie was selected by Girl Guiding to go to Belgium. There is always a 'donation box' at Messy Church to go towards costs and this time it was decided to give this to Hattie towards her trip. She has also been fundraising and today

brought a delicious selection of cakes and a game, pick a bear. With money from her Table and the Messy Church donation, she made £74.20p.

At story time, the children heard the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 (a big picnic) and also the two men building houses, one on sand and the other on rock (building sand-castles). They said a prayer and sang a song before returning to the hall for a picnic tea of sandwiches, fruit and cake, all prepared by Christine.

A big thank you to Tom and all those who come along “as and when they can”. This is great and helps the children to have a go at all the activities.

Messy Church meets again on 9th September 2023 please make a note and maybe you could come along and help the children have another happy afternoon at Emmanuel’s Messy Church.

Maureen and Ethel

Mustard Seed Relief Mission

Love in a Box

Mustard Seed Charity has been operating since 1992 and sends out much needed aid to disadvantaged children and young persons in Eastern Europe.

We also run our ‘Love in a Box’ campaign every Christmas. This project allows schools, businesses, churches and other organisations and individuals to fill shoe boxes with gifts for the children who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present.

Each shoe box is picked up, checked, sealed and sent to the children via lorry. The lorries are met by the distribution teams where the precious gifts are given out to the children who are eagerly awaiting them. Then the fun begins as the children open the gifts.

The children always thank the distribution team and ask to say a big ‘thank you’ to all the kind English people who show they care.

We receive many messages from our friends in Moldova thanking us for all the hard work that goes into the Love in a Box campaign.

From the distribution of the leaflets in September to the boxes arriving in a child's hands in December there is so much hard work and goodwill. None of this would be possible without all of our kind supporters who give so much of their time and effort. As we always say, we couldn't do it without you!

Mustard Seed

Leaflets are available at the back of the church. Boxes need to be taken to church by the end of October.

Ed

Pastoral News

Katherine and Gordon have moved to Dorset. On a recent visit, Maggie and Jennifer presented them with a card and a photograph of Emmanuel on behalf of the Church with best wishes for their future happiness.

Our thoughts are with Freda Skinner in St Margaret's, and Elaine Smith in Northbourne Court Care Homes. Rodolphe and I spent an afternoon with Freda and her family in the garden at St Margaret's, recently.

Audrey Fish, is now living with her daughter in Bexleyheath. She sounded quite cheerful when I phoned her recently.

Mandy Laundry continues to undergo treatment. Remember her in your prayers.

Pat Brace and Marion Parfitt still have various health issues which require regular appointments. We continue to wish them both well.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who cannot get to church regularly, Olive Lewis, George Smith, Doreen Still and Eileen Taylor.

Judith



Ferrier Operatic Society
proudly present...

Kings and Queens



Emmanuel Church
14 Granville Rd
Sidcup
DA14 4BR

7th October 2023 - 3pm
8th October 2023 - 3pm
14th October 2023 - 3pm
15th October 2023 - 3pm
(£12 including tea/coffee and cake/biscuits)

Please call 020 8297 2231 or 07961 901906
for further details and tickets.

Emmanuel Church
HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 8th October at 10.30am

**All harvest gifts will be donated to the
Manna Society**

**Come and Decorate the Church for Harvest
on Saturday 7th October at 10.00am**

Manna Day Centre

The Manna Centre in SE1 is open 7 days a week from 8.30am to 1.30 pm and provides a range of services for the homeless including:-

Breakfast and Lunch

Showers, Mental Health and Chiropody Services.

Housing and Welfare advice.

Access to computers and phone charging.

Here is a list of their needs (most important in **BOLD**)

Food

Tinned Tomatoes, Vegetables

Pasta Sauces, Pasta, Rice

Baked Beans

Tinned Meat (Corned beef,

Chopped ham, Luncheon meat)

Coffee, Dilutable drinks

Tins of:-

Soup, Fish, Hot Dogs,

Stewed Steak, Fruit

Curry Sauces

Porridge Oats, Breakfast Cereal

Tomato sauce, Jelly

Cooking Oil, Biscuits

Toiletries

Disposable Razors, Shaving foam,

Toothbrushes, Shampoo

Bodywash, Liquid soap

Deodorant

Men's Clothing

Trainers, Shoes

Jeans & Trousers (30-38 waist)

Jogging bottoms, Fleece/Hoodies

Underwear, Coats, T-shirts

Miscellaneous

Toilet Rolls

Oyster cards

(unregistered preferably)



Services for September

| | | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 3 | 10.30am | Mr Martin Leonard | |
| 10 | 10.30am | Mrs Val Loader | |
| 17 | 10.30am | Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal | Communion |
| 24 | 10.30am | Elders | |

Services for October

| | | | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 10.30am | Pastorate Service No Service at | Bexley URC Emmanuel | Rev Rodolphe |
| 8 | 10.30am | Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal | Harvest Festival | |
| 15 | 10.30am | Elders | | |
| 22 | 10.30am | Mrs Val Loader | | |
| 29 | 10.30am | Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal | Communion | |

Services for November

| | | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | 10.30am | Mr Martin Leonard | |
| 12 | 10.30am | Elders | Remembrance Sunday |
| 19 | 10.30am | Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal | Communion |
| 26 | 10.30am | Mr Paul Ayliffe | |

Friday Coffee Morning

As from September 1st we are pleased to be able to continue the regular Friday coffee mornings each week as we now have enough volunteers to run it on a rota basis. Coffee and tea will be served between 10 am and noon each Friday in the Church Hall. Please come and support our regular, friendly, welcoming get-together.

Friday is the day Rodolphe, our new minister, has set aside to be at Emmanuel if anyone wants to meet him.



Sunday Coffee

Coffee will continue to be served in the church after morning service every Sunday.

Donations to Church Funds

ROTA

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|-----|----|-------------------|
| Sep | 3 | Pam & Jennifer | Oct | 22 | Pat & Marion |
| | 10 | Ann and Maryia | | 29 | Pam & Jennifer |
| | 17 | Pat & Marion | | | |
| | 24 | Judith & Maddie | Nov | 5 | Ethel and Maureen |
| | | | | 12 | Roger & Christine |
| Oct | 1 | Ethel and Maureen | | 19 | Ann and Maryia |
| | 8 | Roger & Christine | | 26 | Judith & Maddie |
| | 15 | Ann and Maryia | | | |

Next Edition

The next edition **Dec / Jan / Feb** will be printed at the end of November.

Outlook is your magazine!

We would love to hear your stories.

If you have something to share please let me have it by November 17th.

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook2@gmail.com

Bexley Food Bank Report

Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that’s why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

Thank you to Christine and Roger for all the work you do to help the Food Bank

Their Current Needs (20-6-23) Are:

Carrier Bags, very urgent

Washing Pods

Deodorants Men & Women

Shampoo, Shower Gel and Toothpaste

Tins of meat and fish

Long life milk

Fruit in tins

Sweet Corn, Peas, Carrots in tins

Noodles and Rice

They have a plenty of

Female Hygiene products

Baby formula and food

Pulses (chickpeas, Lentils, Bulgar rice, Butter beans)

Tea

Cereal

Goodbye to Maureen and Deborah

A lovely service at Bromley Common was held on July 23rd to give the Circuit the opportunity to bid farewell to Deacon Maureen Spinks and her daughter, Deborah. Prior to the service we were treated to delicious refreshments before going into the newly refurbished sanctuary for the service. A lot of hard work has changed the Church into a very different, welcoming worship area.

The service, led by Duncan, recognised all that Maureen and Deborah have contributed to the Circuit whilst they have been with us. Thanks were expressed to both of them for all they have done in their different roles.

Emmanuel has not seen either of them as much as we would have liked. However, Maureen's preaching and enthusiasm has certainly inspired us and we have loved Deborah's services as a local preacher. We would have loved to see them more often! Maureen was very helpful with her advice on Messy Church, and we were very grateful that she was able to conduct funerals and take baptismal services.

Representatives from Churches in the circuit as well as colleagues Maureen has worked with during her ministry in the Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit were invited to share their memories of what Maureen had meant to them.

Both Maureen and Deborah will certainly be missed, but we wish them both well in their future lives. It has been a joy to know them both.

Judith

Our Suburban Oasis

Do you realise how fortunate we are to have so many parks in our locality? We visit our nearest park, known locally with affection as " the rec ". For over 20 years we have used it on a daily basis and our dogs have enjoyed their walks. Just recently. after a rather unpleasant incident there, I realised how much we take the park for granted.

Out of the blue, one Thursday morning a group of Travellers arrived in a cavalcade, broke through one of the park's barriers and settled themselves in their twelve very large caravans, forcing the usual walkers to abandon their normal routine for the next few days. It was as if our park had been stolen as, much to everyone's disgust, the intruders made themselves at home. How dare they ?

The disruptive behaviour and complete lack of concern or respect for the locality and its residents caused fear and anger. After 3 days the armed police force arrived and eventually forcefully evicted the travellers. The news that the intruders had left, quickly spread and it wasn't long before a local regular dog walker was back with his dog exclaiming "thank goodness we've got our lovely park back!" I am sure everyone who uses the park felt the same.

Early the next morning council workers arrived and during the day the park was cleared of most of the unpleasant debris the unwanted visitors had left behind in their hasty exit. The 'rec' returned to the calm, peaceful and safe place which the regular users value

It made me realise what a special open space it is, used by so many people for so many different reasons. It is difficult on a bright sunny day to realise that you are so near to a big city

The dictionary describes a park as ' a public garden or piece of land used for recreation. 'The 'rec' is the place where people exercise their dogs, where children play games, where people enjoy walking and where athletes train. It is loved, well used and enjoyed by the community. Access is free and entry is from different directions. It is a big open space of mainly grassland with an area of woodland with large trees. It is like an oasis in suburbia!

It is one of many parks in the Borough of Bexley. According to google there are 100 plus. They are all very different. Some are really small others are extensive but they are all there for us to use and enjoy. We feel so fortunate to have Longlands Recreation Ground on our doorstep.

Do you have a favourite park? If you do, perhaps you could write about it and share what is special about it to you.

Judith

Blacklands Farm World Cup Activity Guide Camp East Grinstead 7-11 August 2023



5 guides (2 other guides were at scout camp at the same time) from 4th Sidcup with leaders joined 3rd Sidcup Guides & leaders for a guide camp on a Girl Guiding site at East Grinstead. We arrived at 11am, and put up tents before the girls 1st activity at 3pm.



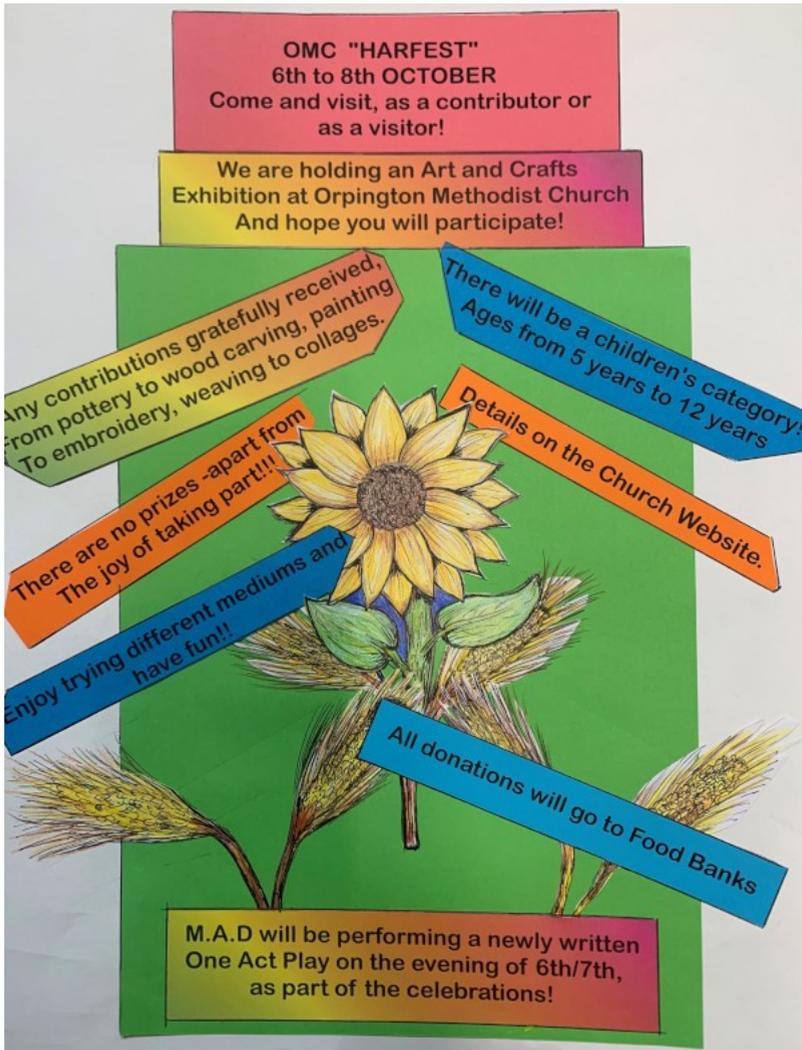
This was Gladiator, which involved climbing up ropes, tying more ropes to touch the bar at the top. Some managed this, others did their best and did not, but all achieved a personal best. Other activities during the week included abseiling, Jacobs Ladder, a leap of faith, crate climbing, team challenges, bush craft, kayaking where everyone got a soaking. Fortunately, the weather was very kind to us all week. The camp organised a wide game, 2 football games and campfires for the 4 evenings.

The leaders meanwhile supervised the activities from the ground – (a lot of standing around) and provided 3 meals a day all cooked on wood fires. The girls had to do their own washing up!!!

It was great to see Lily taking a break from work and university/ paramedic training, and sad to say goodbye to Tayah who is off to Manchester University next month. It was a great camp, everyone had fun, the weather was warm and we had very little rain. New friendships were forged and we even got some sleep!!

Maggie





Thursday 5th 10.00am to 4.00pm.- Church open to receive items for display
 Friday 6th 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 6.00pm.- viewing
 Friday 6th Doors open at 7.15pm.- MAD (Methodist Amateur Dramatics) will be performing "Through the Window"
 Saturday 7th 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 6.00 pm.- viewing f
 7.30pm -Second Performance of "Through the Window".
 Sunday 8th - Church Open for morning Service with viewing following - from 10.30am to 1.00pm.
 No charge but we will ask for money donations to Food Banks.



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Harold Frederic Wilson | 1985 |
| Ada Jessie Nathanielsz | 1986 |
| Beryl Braidwood | 1986 |
| Eileen Dorothy Lyon | 1987 |
| Ada Charlotte Hughes | 1992 |
| Winston Radcliffe Wood | 1994 |
| Ronald Edwin Parker | 1997 |
| Stephen Watkins | 2002 |
| Ida Wiles | 2008 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Ida Elizabeth Vaughan | 1963 |
| Eileen Frances Carter | 1976 |
| Marjorie Constance Liddle | 1979 |
| William John Cole | 1981 |
| Thomas Reginald Clifford Huett | 1984 |
| Gladys Ethel Bell | 1985 |
| Elsie Annie Reader | 1986 |
| Bessie Grimes | 1991 |
| Frederick James Newman | 1998 |
| Reginald Grubb | 1999 |
| Dallas Lewis | 2011 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| John Robert Brunskill | 1977 |
| Audrey Alice Brunskill | 1985 |
| Ivy Annetta Langham | 1984 |
| Winifred Louisa Hodby | 1986 |
| Edith May Gaffney | 1987 |
| Margaret Rand | 1984 |
| William Rand | 1984 |
| Alice Mary Wood | 1969 |
| Margaret Wood | 1987 |
| Edith Mary Norman | 1992 |
| Winifred Huett | 1997 |
| Cyril Skinner | 2006 |
| Sergie Dziejko | 2009 |

Weekday Activities

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Monday | 9.30 - 11.00am 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm | Parents & Toddlers (term time) 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 |



MINISTER

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