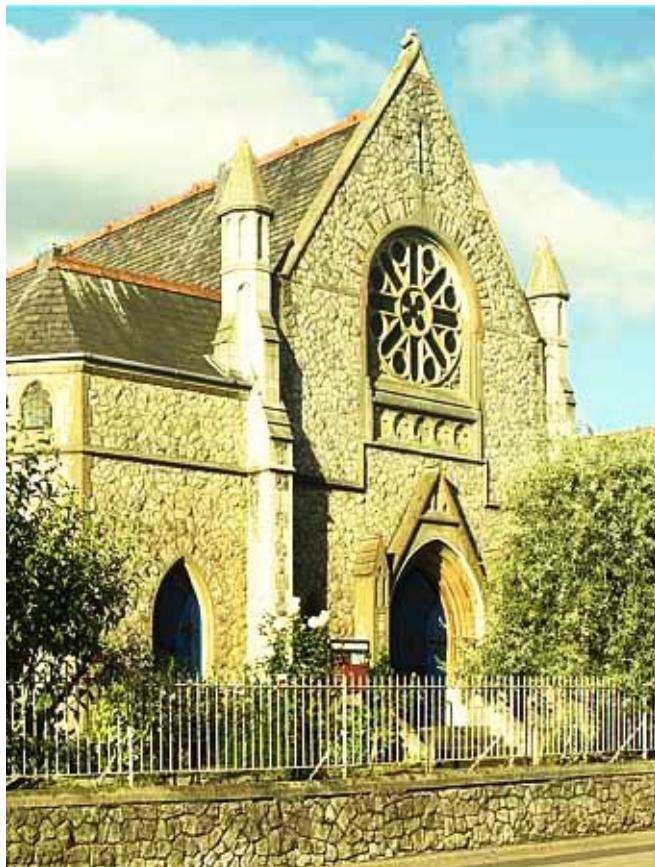


THE
OUTLOOK

JUNE TO AUGUST
2023



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Letter from the Interim Moderator

“It’s good news week”, a song by a group called Hedgehoppers Anonymous, hit the charts in 1965. It was a satirical protest song speaking about bombs dropping and dead people living. But let’s forget these examples and take the title. For the pastorate of the three churches it has indeed been “Good News” week. The overwhelming vote to invite Rodolphe must have greatly heartened Virginie and him. Now we look forward to his ministry, beginning probably sometime in July.



Colin Watson announcing the result of the vote which was almost unanimous.

A number of hurdles are still to be leaped over but the elders are rightly confident that we are almost at the finishing line. It will certainly be a welcome change from being without a minister. Rodolphe’s sermon was punchy and very relevant and his time-keeping was extraordinary!

In his sermon Rodolphe emphasised that he cannot expect to bear the entire load. Sadly many churches expect the minister to be on call twenty-four hours each day and be able to turn his/her hand to any church task.

One of our primary tasks as Christians is to draw others into the church. Hopefully once they are here they will want to stay. Attracting people to church is a very different story than actually keeping them! It is not an easy game. But we have a duty. The Great Commission – Matthew 28, 19. “Go, then to all

peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.” The Great Commission is directed *outwards*. When the church degenerates into a comfortable club for the like minded then the writing is on the wall.

Leighton Ford, the late Billy Graham’s brother-in-law stated, “It has been estimated that in spite of the combined efforts of all churches and evangelistic and missionary agencies put together it is taking 1000 Christians an average of 365 days to win one person to Christ.” Now that was written in 1966 and Dr. Ford is an American. I mention these facts because I presume it was slightly easier to evangelise just under sixty years ago and America seems to be a more fertile recruitment ground than Britain. It seems likely that Dr. Ford’s figures would need increasing if we refer to UK, 2023.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract people. And in this so called post modern time it is becoming even more demanding. It is not an easy task. Many commentators speak of “spiritual blindness”. The individual is unable to perceive. They are walled off and sleeping. Others speak of “spiritual apathy”. The bottom line is that most are simply not interested. They just do not want to get involved. They basically cannot see the relevance of the Good News.

Many of the more complex aspects of our so-called postmodern culture are fundamentally different to what we typically find in churches. Present-day culture prefers authenticity to authority, spirituality (whatever that means to many) rather than creeds and rules and multimedia over passive listening. They are perfectly entitled to their opinion but the challenge of the church is to show those people the relevance of the Good News.

Read national church reports. How much space is devoted to making the church relevant to outsiders? In many cases it is minimal. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4, 4 “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” There is a lot that one can say about this passage.

History is littered with the names of many thousands who have tried to convey the gospel message but are met with deadening apathy. Many have given up a seemingly impossible task of bringing a deep sceptic to Christ. Constant fear of rebuff is a deadly enemy. But let me ask a very delicate question, “Does this reflect personal pride?” What does it matter to God if we are rebuffed and simply ignored? He wants us to keep trying. The question at the end of our lives will not be, “how many have you brought into the church?” but “can you honestly say that you kept striving to the very end?”

Look what happened to His Son on so many occasions. Jesus was rejected time after time. Thank goodness He did not give up. Surely what was dreadful for Jesus is equally galling for us!

The Achilles heel of so many is their mind. Many are so prone to intellectual pride that they think they know it all. If the Big Bang occurred in the manner that many Christian-sceptics suggest assumes a massive concentration of energy.

Where did the spark originate to ignite the masses of gas?

Where did those self-same gasses originate?

I have heard no convincing answers yet many plod on ignoring any other argument. No, God is not in it - but of course God is there. There is no reason why the Big Bang could not occur with God as its instigator. A cigarette lighter does not ignite by itself. You have to flick it to light. So there must have been some force which did the flicking to start off the process. Christians believe that the force is God. So many live with closed minds to-day and do not want to know; especially within the realms of Christian discussion. Closed minds simply refuse to accept the possibility that they could be wrong.

It is imperative that we understand the fundamental principles of resourceful communication prior to effectively sharing the gospel. We need to reach people at their point of felt need in language they understand. The only messages that make them itch are those speaking directly to people's perceived needs and interests. All other messages are filtered out. Even a casual reading of our gospels reveals that this is the way Jesus communicated His message. He always addressed people at their point of need. "Do you want to be made well?" Jesus asked the paralysed man in John 5, 1. Meeting people at their point of felt need is the most powerful and effective means of communication. In fact, it is the key to opening closed minds.

Think back to the gospels. John 6, 66 tells us that many of Jesus's disciples withdrew and no longer followed. They could not believe Jesus. Being in His presence, listening to His actual words and still they were unconvinced. So what chance do we have to-day? It is imperative to meet people *where they are*, not where we are or where we expect or presume them to be. To be effective communicators of the gospel we need to understand sound Biblical theology. And like Jesus we also need to understand people and their total needs.

It is also crucial that we minister to people's real needs and not give a Christian over-simplistic solution to complex problems. Terms such as sanctification, Holy Ghost, redemption, repentance - are not only totally misunderstood by non-Christians but are most definitely a real turn-off.

Merely invoking words does not bring clarity or help to anyone seeking to understand and experience growth in grace. Our basic primary concern is not to win arguments on Christian dogma but simply lead people to Christ. David Watson, who tragically died so early in life stated, "To-day in many circles, the question is not so much as calling the prodigal home as of trying to make him comfortable in his pig-sty while he remains far away from home and cut off from the only Person who really loves and cares."

Let me quote some data from a survey. People were asked why they started to come to church.

Data reveal.

Evangelistic crusade 1%

Systematic visitation of parish 1%

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Help from church in crisis | 1% |
| Cold contact by church | 3% |
| Event evangelism | 3% |
| Sunday school | 5% |
| Contact with church leaders | 6% |
| Friendship of church member | 80% |

And other surveys show a striking correlation.

Clearly much of what we invest, historically and presently, does not lead to an increase in our congregations. At the end of the day you have to give people something they can't get anywhere else and they may come back. You have to give people as A. W. Tozer said, "a taste of the holy." The church must be seen as a practical alternative to the values of our materialistic society of today.

It is our fundamental duty to fully support Rodolphe in his ministry.

Colin Watson

Thank you, Colin

On behalf of the Elders, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to Colin who has acted as our Interim Moderator. He has given us support and guidance during the long process of appointing a new Minister.

We are delighted that Rodolphe accepted the invitation and look forward to sharing the Leadership of Emmanuel with him.

Tony and I are very grateful for Colin's willingness to contribute to Outlook during this period of interregnum.

A very sincere Thank You to you Colin.

Judith

Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal

Rodolphe is the Minister who was "Preaching with a View" to becoming our new URC Minister. In the hope that he would be accepted by the members of the URC Pastorate he has sent us this profile of himself.

I was born in Corbeil-Essonnes in 1972. I spent my childhood in the town of Mennecy and my teenage years in the town of Évry, in the Essonnes Department, south of Paris. I have an older sister who lives in Paris and works in the contemporary art world, and an older brother who is with disabilities and lives near my parents. My father is a retired engineer. His parents were farm workers who came from Poland in 1930 - hence my Polish name. My mother

has worked in a variety of jobs. She comes from a line of farmers and railway workers in the north-east of France.

I have played music since primary school (violin, recorder). At 14, I decided to play the cello, then the viola da gamba. The latter instrument became my passion. In lycée and for my baccalaureate, I chose the scientific path. I obtained my scientific baccalaureate in 1990. After a period of hesitation, I decided to study music, musicology and hymnology. I obtained a conservatoire First Prize in viola da gamba and then a State Diploma in music teaching.

During my studies I ran music camps for children in my town. I did my community service by working for a year in the early childhood centres in my town. In my holidays I enjoyed hiking in the mountains and bird watching. I taught music for several years. During this time I read the Bible, learned about the history of Protestantism and became interested in theology. As a young adult, I asked to be baptised in the Reformed Church in Auxerre.



In 2001, I married Virginie while we were living in the City of Auxerre (Burgundy). We have three boys: Paul (2002), Louis (2005) and Zacharie (2013). Shortly after my marriage, I left the musical career to work in agriculture for a few years. We then moved to the Haute-Savoie (near Geneva) and then to the Ardèche. While living in the Ardèche in 2006, I was very involved in the local Reformed Church, especially in the Sunday School, and received a call to become a minister. I devoted myself with passion to five years of theological studies. I obtained a Research Master's Degree and a Professional Master's Degree, which allowed me to apply for a pastoral position in the Reformed Church of France. During my studies, I continued my performing career with professional musicians and with Virginie, who became a singer and graduated from the Conservatoire as a mezzo-soprano.

In 2010, I did a one-year internship at the Saint-Esprit Reformed Church in Paris, then in 2011 I was called to pastoral ministry at the Reformed Church of Cognac. I was ordained in 2013. I worked for six years in this local Church (actually consisting of four merging local Churches), where I gained a lot of practical experience in different areas: pastoral care, liturgy, leading a Bible study, diaconal work, ecumenical and interfaith relations, working at different levels of the Church (district, regional, national), organising concerts, exhibitions, conferences, taking part in radio programmes, etc. In Cognac, I came into contact with activist circles, especially those fighting against the massive use of pesticides in this region. In recent years I have also developed a theological interest in the question of the status of animals. During this period of my life, when my two older sons were growing up, I started to do more sports (rowing, running, swimming, etc.).

In 2015 the idea arose for my wife and I to have an experience abroad. We contacted the Church of Scotland. In 2017, I visited a number of Scottish parishes and one of them (Portlethen, Aberdeen) called me to be their minister. When I arrived in Scotland, I adapted to British and Scottish customs and the slightly different way of working in the Church. I also learned to set up Church activities that do not exist in France (Messy Church, Fresh Expressions). I got used to going into local schools and academies to talk to the pupils - which was completely new for me - and to create events to bring the Church and the community together.

During this ministry I began a PhD on animal theology (Paris and Aberdeen Divinity Schools). I took up sport in a more organised way. I became a level 1 triathlon coach. In 2020-2021, the Covid pandemic put a stop to many of the projects and activities of my ministry.

These few paragraphs are just a summary of a lifetime of Church and pastoral ministry in which I have met and worked with hundreds of people. I would have to be a novelist like Dostoyevsky, Dickens or Hugo to tell all the stories and friendships that have been made with so many people! In my daily life, sometimes a face comes to mind. I pray for all the people God has given me to meet.

My children have spent six years in the Scottish education system. The eldest is now a music student (harpsichord and organ) at Birmingham Royal Conservatoire, the second will be a science student at Loughborough in October 2023 (he is also a harpsichordist and organist) and the youngest is happy with his school, sport and music practice. My wife, Virginie, has made a successful career change to a new job that she is enjoying very much. She was a primary school teacher. She became a massage therapist. She cannot practise her new job in France. For all these reasons, it is more advantageous for us to remain in the UK, and I am very grateful to have been able to obtain eligibility in the URC, which is a sister Church to my home Church (United Protestant Church of France, Reformed faith). My family faithfully accompany me in Church life.

I know that these are difficult times for the historic Churches, and for Christianity in general. This does not shake my faith, which is based on a personal and communal relationship with Jesus Christ, Bible reading, theology, prayer, song and music. I love the 2 Reformed-Presbyterian tradition, its churches and its liturgy. I am very attached to the history of Protestants in my country - they were often resisters. I like to sing our Psalms. At the same time, I can see that our old model is tired. We often don't know how to do Church in anything other than a traditional way, when we should be inventing new ways of witnessing to our faith, in order to spread the Good News that we have received. We can continue to make Jesus Christ known to the world, but we see the institution we inhabit weakening and disappearing. I don't know any better than others what new model of Church should be adopted - a new form of communion that would bring people together, be successful in today's society and be sustainable. Until we find that, we have to keep praying and carrying on the things we do well for the community.

Jesus' words of vigilance seem particularly applicable to our time. "What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37). Although I am passionate about the Church, theology and I like an active and vibrant church life, I think that peace and reconciliation are two of the most important values in Christianity. We show our Christian love by sharing our hearts and thoughts, solving problems, forgiving mistakes, favouring friendship and conviviality. The powerful Word of God passes through us, constantly transforming our mind and intelligence.

Rodolphe

Next Edition

The next edition **Sep / Oct / Nov**
will be printed at the end of August.

Outlook is your magazine!

We would love to hear your stories.

If you have something to share please let me have it by
August 22nd.

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com

Serving the Community

God calls us to do many different jobs in our Churches. We are familiar with the activities which take place in our own buildings but recently when Tony and I visited Mottingham Methodist Church we were amazed to see what takes place every Wednesday in the Church hall.

The main reason for our visit was to look at the sound system used each Sunday in their services. As it looks very likely that we will no longer have an organist at Emmanuel, we need to look at alternative arrangements. It had been suggested that we visit on a Wednesday to take part in the community lunch.

The doors had opened at 11 o'clock and lunch was scheduled to be served at 12.30. When we arrived at 11.30 there were already people there. The tables were all laid in readiness for the lunch with flowers and menus for the day. Eddie, whom we had come to see, was in the kitchen with his small team of helpers preparing the meal so we sat down and enjoyed a cup of coffee.

As we were having our coffee, gradually visitors drifted in and by 12.30 every seat was taken. We didn't count, but there must have been at least 50! The people who joined our table welcomed us in a very friendly manner and explained the usual procedure. They were all regular diners, as everyone who was there seemed to be. I rather think we were sitting in regulars' usual seats because another seat had to be added for a latecomer.

Before the food was served Maureen Spinks shared a devotion about Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Then a table at a time was called to come and select their choice. There was a choice of 3 main courses and 3 desserts on the menu that week and the choice varies from week to week. The cost was only £4 per person. No wonder these lunches are so popular. Even at that price there is a profit that is used for other charitable purposes.

What a lovely calm atmosphere there was. The friendliness radiated. There were lots of smiling faces and plenty of friendly chatter.

Tony and I thoroughly enjoyed our lunch. We couldn't believe that we were in the midst of something that takes place every Wednesday, except in August.

What a wonderful example of a Church's mission in the community.

We were so impressed I felt moved to write about it.

Judith

Christian Aid Week

The cash collection for Christian Aid Week at the Pastorate "Preach with a View" service was £319.50. Together with the donations in Gift Aid envelopes, the total collected by Emmanuel was £460.20.

27 April 2023

WaterAid

Dear Emmanuel Church Sidcup,

Thank you so much to everyone at Emmanuel Church Sidcup for raising £195.00 for WaterAid. With your group's support, we can continue ensuring everyone, everywhere has a sustainable source of clean water and access to proper hygiene and sanitation.

Until recently, Awa, a mother from Loumana in Burkina Faso, had no access to a toilet. Before, she and her family would have to use a bush to relieve themselves, meaning there was little privacy and safety, and also a lack of proper hygiene.

However, with your support, WaterAid was able to help build a new latrine at her home (pictured below), changing her and her family's lives.

Awa was part of a project to improve access to hygiene and sanitation services in her community. Her new latrine was one of around 25,000 that were built for various vulnerable households.

Awa told us about the difference having a latrine has made: "The new latrine we have got now is a relief and a credit to us [...] We have to maintain the latrine and keep our living environment healthy for ourselves." Your group's support is helping mothers like Awa keep their families safe and healthy.

No one person can fix the water crisis alone. But with your group's support, we are one step closer.

Together, we can help even more communities like Awa's thrive. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you so much again.

With best wishes,

Emily McGuinness Community Team - WaterAid faith@wateraid.org 020 7793 4594



We are very grateful to Pat George for organizing the collection for Water Aid. Thank you Pat for encouraging people to support this essential charity.

Ed

Revised Common Lectionary

| Calendar Date | Liturgical Date | First Reading |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Jun-04 | Trinity Sun | Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 |
| Jun-11 | 2nd Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12 |
| Jun-18 | 3rd Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 |
| Jun-25 | 4th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 |
| Jul-02 | 5th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 |
| Jul-09 | 6th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13 |
| Jul-16 | 7th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 |
| Jul-23 | 9th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 |
| Aug-06 | 10th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 |
| Aug-13 | 11th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b |
| Aug-20 | 12th Sun after Pentecost | Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 |
| Aug-27 | 13th Sun after Pentecost | Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 |

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 | Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel Reading |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Jun-04 | | 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 | Matthew 28:16-20 |
| Jun-11 | Hosea 5:15-6:6 | Psalm 50:7-15 | Romans 4:13-25 |
| Jun-18 | Exodus 19:2-8a | Psalm 100 | Romans 5:1-8 |
| Jun-25 | Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 | Romans 6:1b-11 | Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23) |
| Jul-02 | Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 | Romans 6:12-23 | Matthew 10:24-39 Matthew 10:40-42 |
| Jul-09 | Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14 | Romans 7:15-25a | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 |
| Jul-16 | Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13 | Romans 8:1-11 | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 |
| Jul-23 | 1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 | Romans 8:26-39 | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 |
| Aug-06 | Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 | Romans 9:1-5 | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| Aug-13 | 1 Kings 19:9-18 | Psalm 85:8-13 | Romans 10:5-15 |
| Aug-20 | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 | Psalm 67 | Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 |
| Aug-27 | Isaiah 51:1-6 | Psalm 138 | Romans 12:1-8 |
| | | | Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28 Matthew 16:13-20 |

Lent Lunches

Churches Together Lent Lunches were very well attended and a total of £1993.57 was raised for Christian Aid.

Pastoral News

You will be sad to hear that Ruth Dunster died peacefully the last weekend in May. Ruth was 94 years old. She had lived life to the full. We will all have fond memories of her. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with Liz and all Ruth's family in their sadness. Details of the funeral will be announced later.

Since the last edition of Outlook we have received other sad news. Rev. Keith Lyon died early this year. He was Emmanuel's minister many years ago but a few people may remember him.

We were sad to learn that Keith Brunton had died. He had been unwell for some time and been in a care home. Keith and Anne were such active members of Emmanuel before they moved to Northumberland to be nearer their family. As well as other roles connected with the Church, Keith was the treasurer. Please remember Anne and her family in your prayers as they adjust to life without him.

For many years before the pandemic, I had visited Lorna New in St. Margaret's Care Home but on a recent visit I learned that sadly she had died peacefully in her sleep on 27th November 2021. The home has recently changed hands but I managed to speak to a carer who had been with her when she died. Before needing care, Lorna had attended Emmanuel and the Women's Hour. Juliet and I used to share communion with her.

Freda Skinner was delighted to see Jacob when I paid a visit with him recently. She was pleased to hear about Emmanuel and would love to see people now that visitors are allowed again. Please remember her in your prayers.

Our thoughts are with Elaine Smith in Northbourne Court Care Home and her husband George as he visits her.

Audrey Fish, who is staying at her daughter's because she is unwell, and Mandy Laundry who is undergoing treatment are both in our thoughts and prayers.

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

We think of Doreen Still who is not able to come to church as she cannot leave her husband, John, who is unwell. Doreen is very grateful for the Sunday services sent from the Circuit each week which she can enjoy.

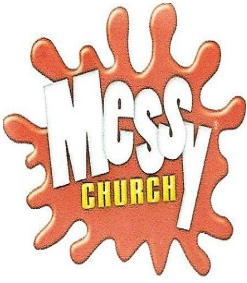
Judith

Farewell to Deacon Maureen and Deborah Spinks

There will be a farewell service at Bromley Common on Sunday 23rd July at 5.00pm, followed by refreshments. Free parking in Norman Park.

We hope people from Emmanuel will be able to attend.

Transport can be arranged nearer the time.



Emmanuel Church is excited to bring to the Church again Messy Church!! June 10th 4.00 to 5.30pm "Summer Holidays"

Messy Church on April 15th.

Our April Messy Church was held just after Easter this year but everyone still enjoyed lots of messy Easter crafts.

The children made Easter bunny cups – bunny feet, tall ears and googly eyes were stuck onto the cup and it was then filled with shredded paper and topped with chocolate eggs. Biscuits were also decorated as bunnies on our food craft table, with sheet icing shapes stuck on with icing sugar mix. Those that were not immediately eaten looked very creative.

Scratchy Easter shapes of eggs, chicks and crosses displayed bright vivid colours as the black coating was carefully scratched away.

To celebrate spring the children each planted a bulb to take home and watch grow. We hope to hear an update on the growth of these when we meet again in June. (Last year Rebecca's Messy Church bulb grew some beautiful purple flowers and is now growing again in our garden after we planted it out. Hopefully we can enjoy watching together as this new one grows this year).

Looking forward to the Kings Coronation, the children all decorated a flag which was then strung up and can now be seen hanging in the church for everyone to enjoy.

The giant picture the children created was a Beautiful English Spring Meadow Scene.



After busily crafting everyone went into the green room to hear the Easter story, say a prayer and sing a song, before heading back into the magically transformed hall for some food and drink.

As always, lots of fun was had by all.

Tracey

Defibrillator

The Church has been the recipient of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). We are very grateful to Mr Easterbrook for arranging it.

We are awaiting a heated lockable cabinet so that we can install it outside, near the side door of the Hall. It needs to be heated to keep the device within its operating temperature range in winter. It will be available to the general public who will be given the access code when they dial 999 and contact the London Ambulance Service.

In the event of an emergency, it can be used without training. When opened it will issue instructions to determine whether it should be used on the patient. If so, it will instruct where on the chest to place two adhesive pads. It will then monitor the patient's heart and if necessary, will automatically shock the patient to stabilise their heart rhythm. The first aider may also be instructed to perform artificial respiration.

Money left to the Church in memory of Roy and Pat Stephenson will be used to pay for the cabinet and its installation.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

As usual, Churches Together in Sidcup organised a Walk of Witness from St. John's to Christchurch on Good Friday.

The walk was well attended and ended with a short service on The Green and refreshments at Christchurch.



Easter Sunday in Keswick

The Churches together in Keswick, as usual on Easter Sunday, held a sunrise service by the Lake. We were up early enough to join them at 6.30am in Crow Park on the shores of Derwentwater. As we arrived we could see the moon still in the sky above the mountains, but as the service progressed, the sun rose and we were prompted to turn round and see it shining over the Theatre by the Lake. By the end of the service, in the sunlight, Catbells in all its grandeur was looking as colourful and beautiful as ever. We paused to enjoy the scene and the peace before dragging ourselves home as breakfast was calling.



Later in the morning I joined the congregation at the Methodist Church for a very joyful service of celebration. Keswick welcomes many tourists and it was lovely to share worship with so many visitors of all ages from different parts of the country. The Church was full!

People had been encouraged to decorate an empty cross with flowers as a symbol of the new life given through Christ's resurrection after death on the cross. After the service, the decorated cross was moved outside the Church and left for a day or two for passers-by to see.

What a special Easter Day!

Judith



Services for June

| | | |
|----|---------|-----------------|
| 4 | 10.30am | Mr Tony Ball |
| 11 | 10.30am | Mrs Val Loader |
| 18 | 10.30am | Mr David Ball |
| 25 | 10.30am | Mr John Twidale |

Services for July

| | | | |
|----|---------|--------------------|---|
| 2 | 10.30am | Mr Chris Price | |
| 9 | 10.30am | Mr Alan Kienlen | |
| 16 | 10.30am | Mr Paul Ayliffe | Café Church |
| 23 | 10.30am | Mr Martin Leonard | Communion |
| 23 | 5.00pm | Farewell to Deacon | Maureen and Deborah Spinks Bromley Common. |
| 30 | 10.30am | Mrs Val Loader | |

Services for August

| | | | |
|----|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| 6 | 10.30am | Mr David Ball | |
| 13 | 10.30am | Elders | |
| 20 | 10.30am | Mr Martin Leonard | Communion |
| 27 | 10.30am | Mr John Twidale | |

Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.00am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. On fine days there may also be a bric-a-brac stall outside. All for church funds.

We need more volunteers to serve the drinks



Sunday Coffee

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

Donations to Church Funds



ROTA

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|-----|----|-------------------|
| Jun | 4 | Ethel and Maureen | Jly | 23 | Pam & Jennifer |
| | 11 | Pam & Jennifer | | 30 | Judith & Maddie |
| | 18 | Judith & Maddie | | | |
| | 25 | Ann and Maryia | Aug | 6 | Ann and Maryia |
| | | | | 13 | Pat & Marion |
| Jly | 2 | Pat & Marion | | 20 | Roger & Christine |
| | 9 | Roger & Christine | | 27 | Ethel and Maureen |
| | 16 | Ethel and Maureen | | | |

PARAPROSDOKIANS

(Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected -

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it..
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Where there's a will, there are relatives: in-laws and outlaws.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad

from Ethel

Food Bank Report

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

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

Their Current Needs (30-5-23) Are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cleaning Products including washing up liquid * | Kitchen Rolls |
| Small packets of washing Powder * | Bottles of Squash to dilute ** |
| Deodorants Men & Women * | Small packets of sugar ** |
| Shampoo * | Noodles ** |
| Bars of soap | Shaving Gel & Razors |
| Chocolate Drink Powder | Coffee |
| Cereals (Small packs for children) | Biscuits |
| Jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter ** | Potatoes in tins or mash |
| Porridge | Female Hygiene products * |
| Meat in tins ** | Rice Savoury |
| Tins of Fish ** | Nappies size 6 or 7 ** |
| Long life milk | Tinned Spaghetti ** |
| Fruit in tins ** | Toothpaste ** |
| Vegetables in tins & Tomatoes ** | |
| Ready to eat Custard & Rice Puddings ** | They have a surplus of beans, pasta and cereals at the moment |
| Fruit Juice in Cartons (Long Life) ** | ** Items out of stock |
| Toilet Rolls ** | * Items in short supply |

Circuit Merger

There is a proposal to merge the Chislehurst and Orpington Circuit with the Bromley Circuit. The meetings on P19 opposite are an opportunity for anyone to ask questions and learn more.

A list has been published giving background information on each church and is posted at the back of the church. If anyone would like an Excel spreadsheet of this please contact me and I will email one to you.

Maggie Williams is Emmanuel's representative. If you want more information please contact her.

Tony Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com

Lark in the Park

It is great to announce that Lark in the Park 2023 is happening, it will be taking place from 27th July to 31st July at Sidcup Place.

Over the many years of Lark in the Park, it has always been amazing to see so many volunteers from across churches in Sidcup, from the community and beyond. The support of so many churches, in so many different ways, makes it truly special.

For more information go to

<https://www.larkinthepark.com>

We would like to let people know they can volunteer. There are many ways to serve and not all tasks include heavy lifting, and it isn't just a kids club event. Team are needed to pray, help with our over 60's events, craft activities, steward, welcome, clean, litter pick, help with tech and media team, all kinds of things for all kinds of skills.

To volunteer please go to

<https://vp.larkinthepark.com/vp/>

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Please do feel free to ask any questions,

Bless you

Paul Weston New Generation Trust (paul@newgen.org.uk)

Q&A

CIRCUIT
MERGER
MEETINGS

COME JOIN US!

| | |
|--|---|
|  SUNDAY 4TH JUNE |  SUNDAY 9TH JULY |
|  12:30 TO 2:30PM |  12:30 TO 2:30PM |
|  NEW ELTHAM METHODIST CHURCH, ROOM 4 |  BROMLEY METHODIST CHURCH |

OPEN TO ANY MEMBER OF EITHER CIRCUIT TO ATTEND
BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

JUNE

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Nancy Mary Martin | 1980 |
| Esme Muriel Heath | 1989 |
| Raymond Edwin John Heath | 1990 |
| David Victor Martin | 1990 |
| John Treacher | 1981 |
| Eleanor Caroline Norman | 1986 |
| Ethel Louise Davies | 1988 |
| Dorothy Harris Kelley | 1988 |
| Harold Gerrard Kelley | 1988 |
| William John Baker | 1980 |
| Henrietta Millward | 1992 |
| Leonard George Griffiths | 2002 |
| Kenneth Greenway | 2004 |
| Georgina Griffiths | 2006 |

JULY

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Arthur Cecil Morton-Hooper | 1969 |
| Emily May Kearsley | 1973 |
| Percival Charles Gibbs | 1977 |
| Edith Elizabeth Newman | 1983 |
| W. Arthur Young | 1984 |
| William T. Rippon | 1987 |
| Gilbert Greenway | 1967 |
| Gertrude Greenway | 1980 |
| Raymond Greenway | 1971 |
| Thomas Lenard Allen | 1972 |
| Frederick Sydney Morley | 1989 |
| Colin Vaughan | 2001 |
| Ronald Sidney Hall | 2001 |
| Dorothy Brawn | 2004 |
| Andrew John Mulliss | 2008 |

AUGUST

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Henry Carl Osborne | 1965 |
| Elizabeth Edith Osborne | 1980 |
| Amelia Emma Long | 1998 |
| Doreen Ida Blades | 2001 |
| David Oatridge | 2010 |

(David's name will be found in the Book of Remembrance
below his wife Margaret's entry in December)

Weekday Activities

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| Monday | 1 - 2.30pm 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm | Parents & Toddlers Club (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

Awaiting new Minister

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Jennifer Willson
37 The Grove
North Cray,
DA14 5NG Tel: 020 8302 0059
emmanuelchurchsidcup@gmail.com

HALL BOOKINGS

Mr. Peter Lake Tel: 020 8300 6181
07711 043876
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EDITORS

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CIRCUIT WEB SITE
CHURCH WEB SITE

www.orpchiscircuit.org.uk
www.emmanuelchurchsidcup.org.uk