

B E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & RECTORY FARM TIMES

Lent



Yes, it's March already so that means we're arriving in Lent!

I wonder if you're among those who give up chocolate for Lent, or maybe like my daughter it'll be crisps (she does like crisps more than chocolate!) or, like my son told us one time, he'd be giving up broccoli for Lent this year (he doesn't like or eat broccoli... ever!!).

I find quite a lot of people give up something for Lent and why not?! Or actually I want to ask, "Why?" What are they doing it for? A lot of people I talk to don't really seem to know, except perhaps that they're doing it as some sort of exercise in self-discipline or even hoping to be slightly healthier by the end of it. Fair enough I suppose but is that really what it's meant to be about?

I know a lady who doesn't give anything up for Lent, but instead does something extra (*no not to do with more chocolate*). Usually this has been to organise a weekly lunch for the period of Lent, inviting speakers to talk about aspects of Christian faith and people to come and share a simple lunch, fellowship, to listen and to reflect. I think she is pretty close to the mark.

Lent isn't exactly Biblical, but it has been part of Christian tradition from early on. To begin with it was a period of preparation, a time of concentrated study and prayer for those who were getting ready for their baptism which would have taken place early on Easter Sunday morning celebrating the resurrection life of Jesus. And the rest of the church community joined in the preparation too, taking time to seek spiritual renewal and increasingly focus on the Easter story and what it means to be part of Christ's body, the Church.

How exciting then, that we are planning to offer baptism this coming Easter Sunday Morning! We already have a couple of people who are interested, and if you think this might be the time for you to be baptised as a sign of your faith in Jesus, or just want to explore the possibility, or even if you'd just like to re-visit the meaning and support others in preparation, then please do contact the office, me, or Stuart to be included.

This year we are following a Lent course called "*Journey to the Empty Tomb*" by Paula Gooder. It will be a great way to seek more of God, to prepare and build-up through Lent as we journey together toward Good Friday and the cross, and our resurrection celebrations on Easter Sunday. The services each Sunday will follow the themes of the book and house-groups will be



meeting weekly looking further at each theme. If you're not usually part of a house-group maybe this is an opportunity to give it a try. You could also use the book for personal devotion through Lent.

If you are going to give something up for Lent, why not use the giving up as a means of prompting you to seek more of God. Every time you miss whatever you've given up, say a prayer instead.

If you're not giving up something for Lent, why not choose a way to put extra effort into seeking more of God. Try taking time to seek spiritual renewal and increasingly focus on the Easter story. God encourages us to seek Him and really does want us to discover the wonder and blessing of His presence in our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Phil

*You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your
heart. I will be found by you,"
declares the LORD...*

Jeremiah 29:13

On-the-spot meals given out to desperate Northampton food bank visitors more than double in one year

by Carly Roberts

There are 50 Weston Favell Centre Food Bank volunteers who come from many different places and all work in harmony to provide a good service to their clients. Volunteers come from St Peter's Church, Storehouse Church, Emmanuel Group of Churches and other faith groups in Northampton.

The provision of hot meals handed out by Cafe Emm to Weston Favell Centre Food Bank users has seen a year-on-year increase of 232 per cent.

This money was spent on 142 food bank users who access Weston Favell Centre Food Bank, some of whom have not eaten for a few days, giving them a slice of toast and a cup of tea, .

The food bank does receive donations from supermarkets, as well as pastries and breads from Greggs, but it is reliant on donations from the general public.

A total of £249 was spent on hot food in January this year alone. This was a 232 per cent rise, and £174 year-on-year increase on what was spent in January 2018.

Chair of Emmanuel Church Group, Nick Bewley-Tippler said: "On average, a client will spend about 90 minutes with us. Most of that time will be waiting for their parcel, and some will be time spent with a referrer who will assess their need. On arrival, they are offered basic food, which is usually a slice of buttered toast or a toasted tea-cake and tea or coffee. That works out at between £1.30 and £2.25 per person. The number of people fed is higher than the number of clients, because clients often bring family members with them. It's also the case that some people, particularly single mothers, haven't eaten at all for several days. In their case, we will provide a proper meal for them, if they want it.

One of the reasons that the cost of provision increased out of proportion to the number of people fed in January 2019, is that we were having to provide more expensive food, for example, beans on toast or egg on toast to more people."

But it is not just emergency food parcels and hot meals they fund. In January this year, £852 has been spent almost entirely on helping people in fuel poverty. The food bank now even pays for pet food and clothes if people are in need.

"As well as pet food, we provide for special dietary needs or sanitary products (particularly nappies), even shoes, clothes, and transport fares, out of the Benevolent Fund, but the majority of use, particularly in January this year, is fuel poverty support."

Even more shocking, perhaps, is that the food bank has handed out 172 emergency food bank parcels this January, compared to 53 during the same time last year. A year-on-year increase of 224.5 per cent. This stark reality follows the roll-out of Universal Credit launched in Northampton back in November, volunteers say. Anyone applying for any combination of housing benefit, income support, jobseekers' allowance, employment and support allowance, child tax credit or working tax credit will instead now have to apply for Universal Credit.

The all-in-one benefit, which was intended to simplify the welfare system and get jobseekers back into work when it was first announced in 2011, has led to more people being out of pocket in the



Jo Alderman—Food Bank Manager

parish and reliant on getting their food from the Trussell Trust food bank at the church.

In 2017 four tonnes of food was handed out, almost three times less than the 11 tonnes needed to feed those who were living on the breadline in 2018.

(Chronicle & Echo Monday 18 February 2019)

This article in the Chronicle and Echo about Weston Favell Centre Food Bank (... the food bank at Emmanuel Church). Is one of a series being run by Carly Roberts, who is raising awareness of the plight of many people, caused by the introduction of Universal Credit, and the increase in the use of food banks generally.

The increase in the number of visitors to Emmanuel has been marked. A far higher amount of money is being given out to support people in fuel poverty (by topping up their pre-payment cards) and being spent on provision of food in Café Emmanuel than in the past. Part of the purpose of Carly's article is to draw attention to our own need for donations to the Benevolent Fund, so that we can continue to provide that support.

Nick Bewley-Tippler

Weston Favell Centre Food Bank

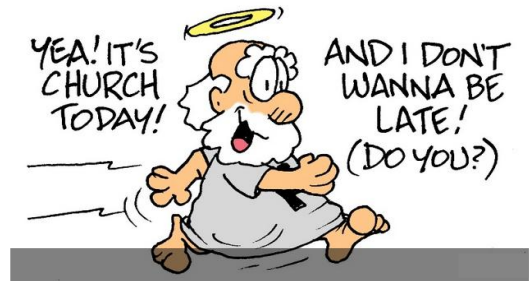
- Based at Emmanuel Church, the food bank is a joint operation between Emmanuel, St Peter's, Weston Favell and Storehouse churches. There has been a significant increase in the number of people visiting, seeking support in the provision of food and other resources. We need volunteers to help with all aspects of the preparation and provision of food and services to clients, including:

- Collection of food from donation centres
- Sorting and storing
- Preparing food parcels
- Meeting and greeting clients
- Providing referral support to clients
- Administration

Are you able to offer a two-hour shift, twice a month?
Full training will be given.

For further information, please contact
Joanne Alderman, Food Bank Manager
at: info@westonfavellcentre.foodbank.org.uk

David Bell's... Boothville Diary



During the last month, I was given the important task of producing new Photos of Boothville Community Church for our newly designed website. The pictures I submitted were of a Sunday Service and a community activity organised by the Church.



As a Church we are welcoming new members as well as welcoming back friends. The picture shows everyone gathering for the Sunday morning service. Our new cross which you can see mounted on the wall behind the altar, was generously made for us by Paul Toone who is one of the Trustees of the Community Hall.



It was good to meet Stuart Jenkins, a Baptist Minister, when he led one of our services last month. Stuart has recently joined the ministry team at The Emmanuel Group Of Churches. We welcome Stuart and look forward to his next visit to Boothville

An eagerly awaited community event was The Quiz Night, organised by Mary Langley and other members of Boothville Church.

Always popular, tickets were sold out almost as soon as they were available!

Quite apart from providing a very enjoyable evening £300 was raised for Boothville Community Hall.



Quiz night at the Boothville Community Hall

Fancy a Party?

Well, you can join the party!

It's a work party over the weekend of
Friday 8th – Sunday 10th March

We will be re-decorating 'the Well' on the middle deck
at Emmanuel

Needed : people who can clean, sand, prepare, & paint
at ground level or higher

Others who can feed & water the first people

When?: starting Friday evening, Saturday morning go to the
denominational meetings & then resume work for as long
as you are able – Sunday afternoon, do a bit more

Do I have to do it all? No, just come along for such time as
you can, from half an hour upwards.

Food: lunch & tea will be provided + breakfast
- if you stay overnight!

If you're a definite, a probable or even vaguely interested,
let John Weaver know on 01604 408439 or
igweaver682@talktalk.net

Opportunities to serve in our communities

Have you ever thought of becoming a street pastor?

Northampton Street Pastors are based at night in Northampton town centre, and School Pastors are based in the afternoon around schools in the Weston Favell area. Both are recruiting team members, This includes Prayer Pastors and Prayer Partners who play an important supporting role. Our Open Evening has passed but we are still welcoming enquiries up to mid March. Training will start in April.

Would you like to go out as an observer with the team before then?

For more information visit <https://streetpastors.org/locations/northampton/join-us>

Please feel free to contact

Keith (Street Pastors)

coordinator@northampton.streetpastors.org.uk

Tracey

(School Pastors) northampton@schoolpastors.org.uk

From churches together Northampton news

Café Emm at Emmanuel Church needs volunteers

Café Emm is a home for the community.

It can be found on the top floor of Emmanuel Church in The Weston Favell Centre. The café supports those in the community who might not otherwise have anywhere to go. On Wednesdays it provides a place for food bank clients to relax, have a drink and something to eat while they are waiting. On another day, there will be groups of people playing board games at Board Games café (you will be welcome to join in). We also provide a space for friendship circle to meet. Not only that, the food is good!

Café Emm has a range of volunteers, of all ages and abilities. If you have two hours to spare, once a week (or more) we will be delighted to hear from you.

**For further information, please contact Terry-anne Fleck,
Café Emm manager: coffee.shop@emmanuelgroup.org.uk**

Now you don't need to come to Church!

(not really...)



Only joking! But if you aren't able to come every week (yes, it does happen) the wonders of technology make it possible for you to still be able to listen to the sermon!

Emmanuel Church sermons, and occasional sermons from Rectory Farm and Boothville, have been recorded since last year and now have a new online home (they have moved from Soundcloud. The new website gives us unlimited storage for free so we don't need to change the link). They will also be available via the new church group website when it is launched.

The link is:

<https://audiomack.com/artist/emmanuelnorthampton>

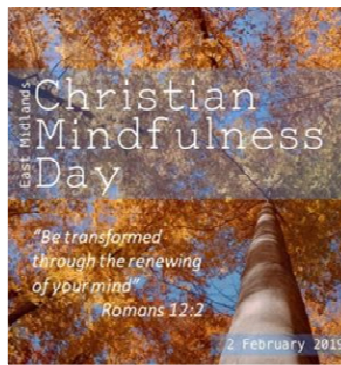
Sermons can be listened to at the above link without signing in or via the free Audiomack mobile phone app. They can be downloaded via the app for listening to on the go...

search for Emmanuel Northampton on the app:

Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/audiomack-download-new-music/id921765888>

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.audiomack>





CHRISTIAN MINDFULNESS DAY

Reflections from a Training Day

We focused on PSALM 138 V 7. The verse of
"You reach out your hand and the power of your
right hand Saves me" NIV



God protects and saves; he created all of us to be special, so special that each finger print is unique to the person. We made casts of the finger prints and coloured in the hand print to remember that not only does God protect but that He remembers us by having our names written on the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49 v16)



Newspapers and magazines are full of articles on "Mindfulness", so I was interested to attend a day organised in partnership with the Mind and Soul Foundation on Christian Mindfulness.

The blurb leaflet outlined "For Christians and anyone interesting in the area of mental health and spirituality. With the particular focus to enable Christians engage with mindfulness for health and mindfulness of God in an informed way, bringing psychological, biblical, and a historical perspective into the cultural phenomenon of mindfulness.

It was not surprising to hear that "Christian Mindfulness" is not new. For centuries Christians have explored prayerful meditation and contemplative practices, such as Lectio Divina, praying with a rosary or repeating scripture

Rev. Shaun Lambert is a Baptist minister in London, part of the New Wine Leaders network and has trained extensively in counselling and psychotherapy <https://shaunlambert.co.uk/category/a-story/>

He spoke about:

"Mindfulness is our God given capacity for attention and awareness"

We all joined in a prayer, at the beginning of the session by placing a hand over our heart or stomach, and saying

May the love of Christ fill me (us)

May the light to Christ shine through me (us)

May the Spirit of Christ flow through me like a river (us)

To say this at the beginning of the day to repeat during the day helps us keep focused on ourselves and those around us. He sometimes says it to himself, when he sees people on the tube who look troubled or unhappy.

He suffered from shyness and extreme anxiety when he was younger, and has learnt now to say he has an "Anxious body" instead of being an anxious person, and is a firm advocate of how Christian Mindful practice has helped him manage these feelings.

People are three times more likely to be aware of negative thoughts than positive thoughts and by consistently focusing on negative thoughts, this can prevent an individual from reaching their creative potential and restrict growth, spiritual and emotional, by avoiding both negative and sometimes positive emotions, for fearing history may repeat itself

He talked about the "Mindful moment", as to walk the dog, go to the gym, sewing, listening to music, having pets or gardening, with the aim of moving away from Hyper attention to a deep and focused attention.

He also gave tips on how to have focused attention, as everyone's mind wanders away from time to time: by :

F Focused attention

M Mind wandering

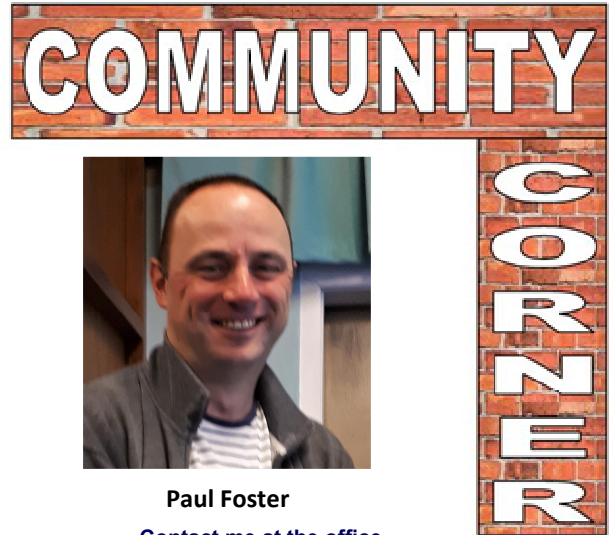
M Meta awareness. That is being aware that the mind has wandered

D Direct it back

(continued on page 7)

Community Care Update

March 2019



Paul Foster

Contact me at the office
402150 or email

paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk

Community Care Update – March

You forget February goes by so quickly, so here is another

Board Game Cafe

I said the times needed to be tweaked, so here is tweak number one.

It is going to stop in the evening, and concentrate on the afternoon one. The afternoon one will still be on 1st and 3rd Monday in the afternoon.

Some dates for March and April will be 4th and 18th March and 1st and 15th April in the afternoon. But I'm going to look at another evening alternative, maybe on a Saturday, maybe including food, might even include curling!!!

Watch this space!!!

So, if you are free on 1st or 3rd Monday in the afternoon, then please pop along. We have quite a selection of games for you to play, and if you have a specialist game, you would like to bring along, I'm more than happy with that. The cost is just £1 to cover tea, coffee, biscuits.

FISH (Food and Fun In School Holidays)

Thanks to those who helped in February, and hot on the heels is Easter! We are running twice at Easter, Tuesday 9th and 16th of April if you want to help, you know where we are.

Brookside Drop in is still running every Thursday morning. You don't need to live in Lings or Lumbertubs. Just pop in for coffee, cake and chat - or tea and biscuits (my preference!!)

Litter Pick -We will be doing a litter pick as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Big Spring Clean, between 22nd March and 23rd April. Ours will be on **Saturday 6th April from 10-12**, meet outside Emmanuel. Depending on numbers we're hoping to cover immediately around Emmanuel, the car park and maybe walk around the police station

Emmanuel Church
Billing Brook Road, Weston Favell Centre
Northampton, NN3 5JR

Love where you live

Depending on time and number of helpers, hoping to get cleaned
Around Emmanuel, car park and field near the police station

Acts 435 acts435.org.uk

This is something new and exciting which we have signed up for and it doesn't cost the church anything, but an opportunity for you to help people in need.

People in need can request equipment and people can donate a little or a lot to allow the request to be completed. People can pretty much request anything, from children's clothes to washing machines, for help with bills to money towards passport applications.

I am an advocate on behalf of Acts 435 and our church and can accept requests from people, so if you know someone in need of items, please speak to me and will see what we can try to do and help them.

This is straight from the website, but it might help a little more about what it is:

When so many people need so much help, giving can sometimes feel hit and miss, and choosing between charities can be hard. Acts 435 puts people who can give in touch with people who are in need with the Church as the physical, face-to-face forum to enable virtual, online giving.

Acts 435 runs through a network of churches and charities that are recruited directly and through key partners like Christians Against Poverty and Trussell Trust. They appoint an Acts 435 representative, called the Advocate, who is trained by Acts 435 and then posts requests directly onto our website for people in their community who are in need.

I really do encourage you to look at their website to find out more.

Paul

THE FUELCAST

www.thefuelcast.com

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a

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Emmanuel Church Hall,
Middle Deck,
NN3 8JZ

Weston Favell Centre, Northampton
Mon 10.00am, Sat 8.30am & 9.30am

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY
0345 677 7788

CHRISTIAN MINDFULNESS DAY (continued from page5)

The next speaker Richard H. H. Johnston, spoke of Mindfulness Compassion and Christian Contemplative Practice. Richard hosts training courses, and has free online Mediations on his web site <https://christianmindfulness.co.uk/>

He spoke of one form of contemplative prayer called *Hesychasm*, or the Jesus Prayer. Dating back to the dawn of Christianity where the Desert Fathers, who lived in extreme poverty, practiced this form of prayer. The word comes from the Greek *hesychia*, meaning "stillness" or "silence". Monks in Greece still pray this way for hours at a time.

There is also a word HESED (Hebrew) the Unchanging love of God, Loving kindness/ steadfast/ unfailing/ devoted/ faithful/ loyal. God wants to share these gifts with us, and by practicing Christian mindfulness we begin to experience the knowledge from the head to the heart.

He spoke about how his dad had died not so long ago and that the sculpture the "Weight of Grief" by Celeste Roberge had spoken to him and many other people to realise that hanging on to the presence of God in suffering brings comfort, and his practice helped him to be in being in God's presence.

The final speaker was Dr Rob Waller Director of Mind and Soul Foundation, spoke about Mindfulness and Mental Health for Christians, and provided a realistic approach to ways where mindfulness is appropriate. Mindfulness has been proven to reduce chronic pain, and symptoms of anxiety.

There are positive benefits for people who commit to practicing, and psychiatrists also use mindfulness in mental health practice, in particular when individuals have had several treatments of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, and little improvement has been noted.



Key themes of Compassion, understanding and acceptance are brought to mind instead of self-criticism, with a commitment to change and can be used as a tool to move through difficult phases of life.

The mind and soul foundation have blogs, helpful information on stress, anxiety, confidence, etc.

<https://www.mindandsoulfoundation.org>

<http://www.mentalhealthaccesspack.org/> Link to church pack of how a church can be inclusive for mental health, dementia friendly, reducing isolation, supporting family and carers, pastoral information

<https://www.mindandsoulfoundation.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx> link to the downloads of audio or video material

After attending I am going to try the "mindfulness pause practice" and explore learning more about the subject.

If anyone would like to know more do look up the web sites, and contact me to meet up for a cup of tea. Fp1458@gmail.com

Fiona Potter (Rectory Farm)





SUNDAY
10.30am

BLAST

junior church for 4 - 18 years
+
creche for under 4's @ **emmanuel**
on the 1st and 3rd
Sunday of the month

Jamout

if you're secondary school age.
😊

The Christian youth group for you

on top floor at emmanuel

fridays 7-9pm

★ **munch - food and fellowship**

★ **testimonies, film nights,**
group discussions, games nights ★
social events and more....



'R-zone'

is a free youth group for ages 8 - 13

from 5 'til 6pm on Fridays at
Rectory Farm Community Centre

See our webpage @

www.rfnorthampton.org.uk/r-zone

want to know more?...

- call Mell on 402150 (church office)

John Jeffreys

Electrical

01604 962055 T / 07903 534833 M
 @ john@johnjeffreyslectrical.co.uk
 www.johnjeffreyslectrical.co.uk

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DEADLINE

for items for the

**APRIL
 EDITION**

of

B.E.R.T

**Friday
 22nd
 March**

**Please send your
 articles,**

testimonies, comments, funny
 stories, family news, local
 issues, etc. to...

liz@lizzywhizz.biz

or leave items for BERT
 at the church office.

**BERT IS ONLINE
 IN FULL COLOUR
 at our website:**

**www.
 emmanuelgroup.org.uk**



Faxing Service

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Europe & N.America	1st page	2.00
	Following page/s	1.00
Rest of the World	1st page	2.50
	Following page/s	1.25

Receiving:

1st page	0.75
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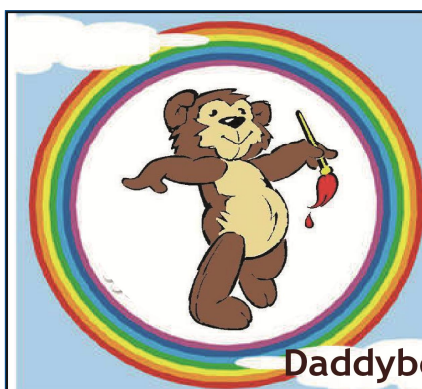
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- Brakes
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- Suspension
- Clutches
- Camshafts
- Window Tinting
- Bodywork Repairs

Call Stuart on 07717378640
 or visit
 www.scb-automotive.co.uk

REGULAR GIVING

*If you give regularly to the work of The Emmanuel Group,
 please consider giving via the envelope scheme and,
 if you pay income tax... 'Gift-aid' it so that we can
 claim tax back, maximising your gift.*

*For further information, enquire at Emmanuel church office
 (next door to our coffee shop)
 or ask a steward at one of our services.*



Stephen Scott

01604 402253

07591 693843

daddybear1973@yahoo.com

Daddybear Face Painting



Camping Equipment Wanted

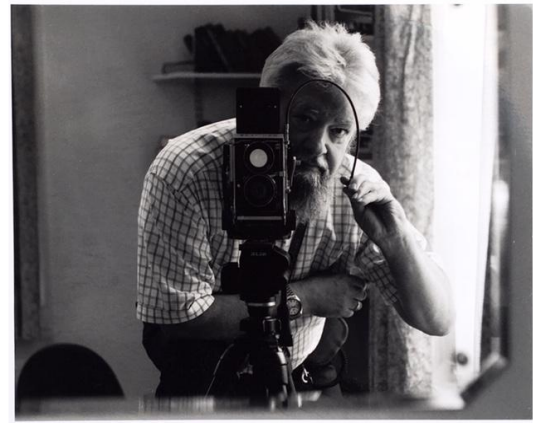
We have 26 people going to Soul Survivor this year (including leaders).

Some of our tents are getting a bit tired so we could do with some more resources. Have you got a tent or other camping equipment that you don't use any more and could either donate to the church or lend to us?

Needed:

**Tents, especially large Multi-Pod Tents and Frame Tents,
Airbeds/Camp Beds, Sleeping Bags, Pegs,
And anything else people think may be useful**

Please let Mel/Rachel T/Paul Foster know if you can donate/lend anything. Thanks.



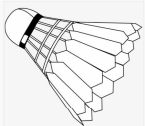
If you haven't already had the pleasure of meeting him, here's Stuart Jenkins, who recently joined us at The Emmanuel Group of Churches on a part time basis; picking up some of the hours that Phil has recently given up.

His photo was missing from BERT last month (subsequently found in my junk box!)

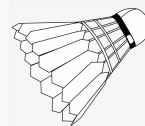
Stuart is a Baptist minister. He has been a chaplain, half-time, at St Andrew's Hospital since 2012 and County Ecumenical Officer for Northamptonshire since 2016. He also leads a community choir in Kingsthorpe.

If you see him around during the week, say hello and introduce yourself.

Liz Bateman



CAN YOU PLAY BADMINTON AND HAVE FREE TIME ON A FRIDAY MORNING?



The Friday morning badminton club at Emmanuel are looking for some new members. The present club members are all over 60 years of age but still enjoy a good game of badminton, so we are not able to take complete beginners.

We play from 10.40 am till 12.40 and are a friendly sociable group.
Why not come and join us?

If you are interested, contact Marion Farrow on 01604 401335
or by e-mail to marionefarrow@gmail.com





How to stay safe in the world today!

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So...above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT...You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

...And...Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So... Attend church, and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

found by Pat Acock

Pop in for
Coffee, cake and chat
Thursdays 9 to 12

Hosted by
Emmanuel Church,
Weston Favell Centre

Here at
Brookside
Hub

Billing Brook Rd,
Northampton
NN3 8NP



All Welcome



Our Lent Appeal

As we approach a time of joyful celebration in the Church calendar we ask if you might consider doing something for international relations...making a small but significant contribution towards greater understanding worldwide.

HOST's mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural |

exchange. Our volunteer hosts can offer hospitality for one day (daytime only) or three days and two nights at the weekend.

Please consider becoming one of our volunteer hosts. We operate all year round and would very much welcome you to join us.

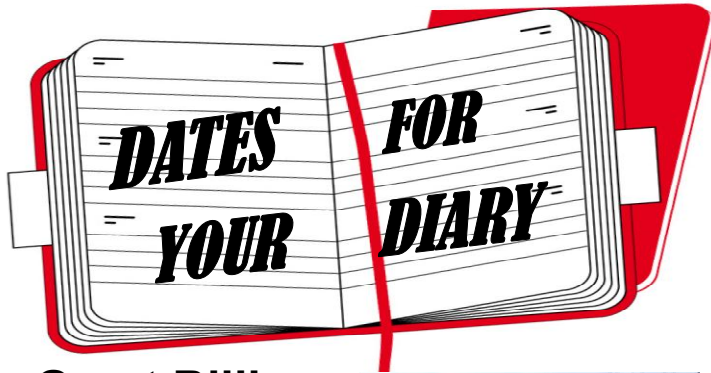
More information can be found on our website:

www.hostuk.org

Or email us on: info@hostuk.org

Or telephone us on: **020 7739 6292**





Great Billing Methodist Church

You are invited to
A PRAYER BREAKFAST
8.30 – 9.30 a.m.

Every third Tuesday of the
month 8.30am - a time of

quiet, structured prayer for our world, our community and
ourselves.

9.00am - light breakfast of fruit

juice, cereal & toast.

+ Reflective mornings at Great Billing

On the first Tuesday of each month. Enjoy a relaxed time
of fellowship and reflection. Refreshments from 10.15am.

Meeting 10.30 to 12 noon. More details from Joan Beswick
(638687) or Norma Baxter (844316)



GROUP HOLIDAY 2019

TO EASTBOURNE

June 7th to 14th 2019

£499.00

Staying at the Albany Hotel on the seafront for eight days.
and includes a return journey on The Bluebell Steam
Railway of 'Railway Children' fame, a return journey on
Romney Hythe Dungeness Steam Railway, visiting Chartwell
House, the home of Winston Churchill, Rye, Battle and
Hastings. One trip not included in the price is to Bentley
Wildfowl and Motor Museum.

Deposit is £75.00 and Travel insurance £26.00 If a single
room is required, ask Kathy as soon as possible.

Day Trips 2019

Saturday May 25th - Leonardslee gardens and lakes in
Surrey a wonderful place to visit lakes, rhododendrons
of many colours, Dolls houses and wallabies.
Cost - £27.00 Adults, £25.00 OAPs, £17.00 children

Saturday July 6th Salisbury, visit the Medieval Gothic
Cathedral and places of interest. Cost £16.00

Saturday August 24th Margate cost £17.00 (child £8.00)

Saturday September 7th Boston Town Centre. Lovely mar-
ket town in Lincolnshire. Cost £14.00

*These trips are available to all - and you can
spread the cost over the next few months!*

Book with Kathy Norris at 'Cafe Emm'
Weston Favell Centre on Tuesdays

or phone 01604 494057 or 07923017619 to
book your place with a deposit of £5.00.

Remember these, well join us for



Board Games Cafe

1st and 3rd Monday
between 2:00 to 4:00

2nd and 4th Monday
between 7:00 to 9:00

If you have a specialist game, you would like
to bring along, I more than happy with that

 **In Cafe Emm**
Emmanuel Church
Weston Favell Centre

£1 to cover tea / cake / biscuits

the association for

Church Editors

Member editor 2018

EASYFUNDRAISING

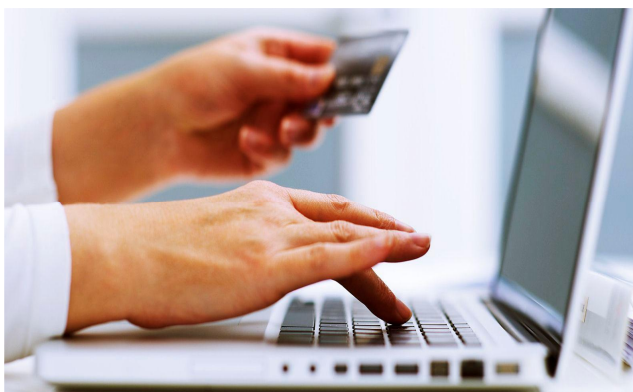
Since starting this scheme at the beginning of last year we have raised almost £150 for church funds with absolutely no cost to ourselves which has to be good.

As Assistant Treasurer and Finance Team member I am only too well aware that our finances continue to be on a knife edge and it would be great if more members could join this scheme which I would stress again will cost you nothing.

At the present time we have 22 members, which is an increase of 6 over the last few weeks following our publicity drive but I believe there are far more of you, in our three congregations, that must buy things online who could also join.

So what is holding you back ?? It is really easy to join and you can use your existing online accounts with the retailers concerned. You just have to access the retailer initially through the easyfundraising app (downloaded from the App Store or Google Play) or their web-site. I have been handing out Easy Peasy flyers, which show the three easy steps involved and if you need one let me know. The link you need is :-easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/emmanuelgroupofchurches.

Spring seems a good time to remind you again about this scheme. With the year stretching ahead of us, now is a good time to join before you begin to book holidays, buy insurance, join a new utility provider or almost anything you can buy online.



Whilst Amazon is the go-to site for buying online, other retailers like John Lewis, Argos and Booking.com pay more and should be considered as an alternative. You will also get emails (perhaps too many, sorry) that show offers from some of the retailers that increase their contribution from time to time.

As administrator I don't know what you are buying but I do get details of amounts raised and there is a league table of supporters sadly I am now down to fifth.

With the new members joining recently the rate of payments to us has increased which is great. So come on people join the gang...

Remember, it won't cost you a penny!!

Grant Timms

BAPTIST BIRTHDAY SCHEME



Thank you to all those who contributed to the Baptist Birthday Scheme last year, the total was £209.

"By giving a gift to the BMS Birthday Scheme every year on your birthday, you're doing something amazing -

you're sharing the gift of life. Every gift given to the Birthday Scheme supports our life-transforming health work. Your birthday can help medics in Chad keep vulnerable mothers and babies safe in childbirth. It can support children with disabilities in Thailand, providing them with a loving home in a society which often rejects them. And it can help struggling people in Uganda access speech therapy, giving them the opportunity to communicate with the world around them."(From the Baptist Union website).

If anyone would like to learn more about this scheme please contact me on 01604 647611 or gillehill@aol.com.

Gillian Hill



Men's pie & pint



Thursday 7th March
7.30pm at
The Lumbertubs Pub

WHAT'S HAPPENING EVERY WEEK IN THE EMMANUEL GROUP OF CHURCHES

Monday	Prayer meeting	Emmanuel	7.30 - 8.45pm
Wednesday	Family tots	Emmanuel	9.45 - 11.30am
	Family tots (session 2)	Emmanuel	12.00 - 1.30pm
	Friendship circle	Emmanuel (fortnightly)	1.45pm
Friday	R-Zone Youth club 8 - 13 years	R.F Community Centre	5 - 6.00pm (term time only)
	Jam out Christian Youth Group	Emmanuel	7 - 9.00pm (term time only)

Emmanuel House Groups meet at various times & venues during the week (see below)

COME & PRAY

WEDNESDAY

27th MARCH

7AM - 8AM

**JOINT
PRAYER MEETING**

WITH
**STOREHOUSE
CHURCH**

AND THE
SALVATION ARMY

PENISTONE ROAD

AT

**EMMANUEL
COFFEE SHOP**

PRAYER FOR
NORTHAMPTON EAST
AND FOR OUR
CHURCHES.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT
THE HOUR FLIES BY!!!**

WITH COFFEE AND DANISH
OF COURSE!

**Book the last
Wednesday
of EVERY month
in your diaries**

Emmanuel House Groups

meet at various times & venues during the week

Area	Day & Time	Leader
Boothville	Tuesday – 7.30pm	Rachel
Goldenash	Tuesday - 1 - 2.30pm	Tracy/Vicky
Goldings	Wednesday – 7.30pm	Olu
Overstone Lodge	Wednesday - 7.30pm	Linda/Precious
Southfields	Wednesday – 7.30pm	Liz/Jasmyne
Great Billing	Thursday – 7.30pm	Gill

If you are interested in joining a group but can't do any of these days or times, please let us know. It may mean starting a new group!

For further information speak to any of the house group leaders

Family Tots

Wednesdays

9.45am-11.30am or 12-1.30pm

at

Emmanuel Church

**Weston Favell Shopping Centre
Top floor Coffee Shop entrance**

**£2.00 includes snack and drink
for the children**

**+ tea/coffee for parent/carer
(60p for additional adults)**

**Any profit goes towards
new equipment & extra activities**

**Every
Monday Evening**

7.30-8.45pm

PRAYER

in the chapel
at

**Emmanuel
Church**

Open to All

Please come and join
us, you will be most
welcome

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE



ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS

IN THE COFFEE SHOP AT EMMANUEL WESTON FAVELL CENTRE
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: KATHY NORRIS or JEAN MARKS



**Emmanuel is a
learning disability
friendly church**

everyone welcome



The line between greed and generosity

By Jane Clamp | 30 January 2019

I confess I'm a bargain hunter, whatever the time of year. I can walk into a shop and find my feet tracking their way to the stickered items before I've consciously registered their existence. I'm like the Bisto kid of the reduced-item retail world – that is, until the January sales, which bring out a very different reaction in me.

I remember as a child watching the local TV reports of people missing their Christmases at home because they were camped out on the pavement, hoping to bag themselves a new telly or sofa at a knockdown price. I can recall, young as I was, thinking they'd made a ridiculous choice. Who'd miss Christmas – with all of the loveliness actually there on offer – to wait for the shops to open, with every chance you'd miss out on the one item you were after?

Several years ago I witnessed first-hand the ugliness of this particular sales season. We'd been invited to a wedding on the 27th December. I admit that, as ever, funds were low and I'd decided to wait until after Christmas to see if I could get the happy couple something on the wedding list a bit more cheaply. The plan worked, actually. The set of glass tumblers I'd looked at a few weeks previously were indeed marked down, and I thanked God for his enabling.

But what made even more impact on me was the sight of the shoppers riffling through wire baskets of goods, practically tossing them over their shoulders as they delved more deeply, convinced that even cheaper items might lurk at the bottom.

The point was, these were gift packs and special treats that had been cherished only a few short days ago. Packaging which glimmered and tantalised then was now dented at the corners and dismissed as not even worth half the price. The bargain-hunters looked like animals feeding at the trough (with apologies to animals everywhere) and I was appalled at how the season of goodwill had all too quickly become a free-for-all, with those with the sharpest elbows faring best.

I'm left thinking that this shows how fine a line there can be between generosity and greed. What should be seen as polar opposites lie much more closely together than you might think.

The difference is simple: who benefits? With generosity, the focus is outward. You want to lavish the one you love with both things they need and things they've never thought of wanting. Although it might make you feel good, that is not the motivation. You want to see their face light up, their heart blessed.

Greed, however, is surely generosity to one's self? It has its focus squarely aimed at self-gratification, with little thought to others. Those shoppers around the bargain bins might have been after something for someone else but, from how it looked, I doubt it.

James asks, 'Can both fresh water and salt water come from the same spring?' (3:11). Stretching his point, I ask, 'Can generosity and greed come from the same heart?' It's something I shall ponder through this month of retail temptation.

Lord, thank you for those moments you meet my need with well-timed bargains, but help me keep an attitude of looking out for the needs of others. I want to be generous to others far more than to myself but I'm going to need your help to do that. Amen.



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny



Women & Wine
Thursday 28th March
7pm
@ The Quays
Billing Aquadrome
For more info, contact
Jo on 07841 578746

I Believe

These words were found after World War II on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany where people had been hiding:

I believe in the sun,
 Even when it is not shining.
 I believe in love,
 Even when I feel it not.
 I believe in God,
 Even when He is silent

The Ministry Team

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Weekly News-sheets

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RECTORY FARM COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rectory Farm Primary School
 Olden Road (opposite the local shop)
Sunday service at 10.30 am

BOOTHVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH


Boothville Community Hall
 Booth Lane North
 (access via the lane by the hairdressers)
Sunday service at 10.30 am

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Weston Favell Centre,
 Billing Brook Road
Sunday service at 10.30 am
Weds Communion at 1.30pm (30 min)
Group Office - Mon - Fri 10 - 2 pm

EMMANUEL GROUP of CHURCHES BILLING BROOK ROAD
 NORTHAMPTON NN3 8JR

Services in March 2019

Date	Emmanuel 10:30am	Boothville 10:30am	Rectory Farm 10:30am	YOUTH GROUPS
Sunday 3rd	Welcome to Paula Gooder, writer and lecturer in Biblical studies, Reader in the Church of England and honorary Canon Theologian at Birmingham and Guildford Cathedrals. THE EMMANUEL GROUP JOINT SERVICE @ EMMANUEL (Martin's last service with us)			<u>Rectory Farm</u> Praise & Prayer <hr/> <u>Emmanuel</u> Own Group
Sunday 10th	<u>ipraise</u> Keith Holland Delamere & Nick Bewley Tippler	Communion Haydon Spenceley & David Bell	Communion Junior Church Kris Hatherly	<u>Rectory Farm</u> Own Group <hr/> <u>Emmanuel ipraise</u>
Sunday 17th	Communion & BLAST Stuart Jenkins & James O'Sullivan <u>PROSPECTS GROUP (ground floor)</u>	Morning Worship Doug Spenceley	Praise & Pray Haydon Spenceley	<u>Rectory Farm</u> <u>& Emmanuel</u> at McDonalds
Sunday 24th	JOINT FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE @ BOOTHVILLE THE EMMANUEL GROUP AGM Haydon Spenceley & Team			
Sunday 31st	Local arrangement	Local arrangement	Communion Kris Hatherly & Keith Holland Delamere	

and - **COMMUNION EVERY WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME at 1.30pm**