

# BERT

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & FACTORY FARM TIMES



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Dear friends,

**I hope and pray that you are well, safe and that you know Christ and the power of his resurrection in these strange and unusual times.**

We need something to hold on to when things in life are uncertain. We need to decide who or what to trust when what we thought were firm foundations around us become shifting sands.

That's how it's felt during the time of Covid-19 Coronavirus to me - the majority of the things I used to do and the ways I used to do them are not open to me at the moment, and so I face a choice: to throw my hands up in the air and panic on the one hand or to do what I can to draw close to God on the other. When it seems all around us is change, God is unchanging. He is love. He is trustworthy. He will see you through if you put your hope in him.

I start my letter to you this month with a paragraph like that unapologetically. As we have lived through these last couple of months I've talked to many people who are frightened and unsure. I have had days when I've felt like that myself.

On those days, it would be tempting to be like the people of Israel in the Old Testament. They decided to put their trust in other gods. It didn't go well for them, however justified it might have seemed, in accusing God of letting down and leaving them. God does not let down or leave his people.

In this edition of BERT you will find reports about all sorts of things that have been going on in the life of our Church and our community this Spring. It has been wonderful to see the way that we have adapted and developed new approaches to staying in touch with each other, delivering services, praying for each other and for the wider world and supporting the local community.

I want to pay tribute to everyone who has given so much of their time, efforts and talents to make this possible. We

don't know how long it will be until we are able to meet together in church buildings, but we do know that when we do it will not be like church as we knew it before.

There are bound to be many changes and new approaches needed. It is possible that the 'new normal' of physical gatherings may even be more unsettling than this period of not being able to meet together physically has been. I know many of us miss seeing each other greatly and miss sharing in worship and communion in the same room together. Personally I miss leaving the house.

If you find yourself in need of help, a listening ear or something else in these days do get in touch with us in the Church Office. We will do all we can to find the right way to support you.

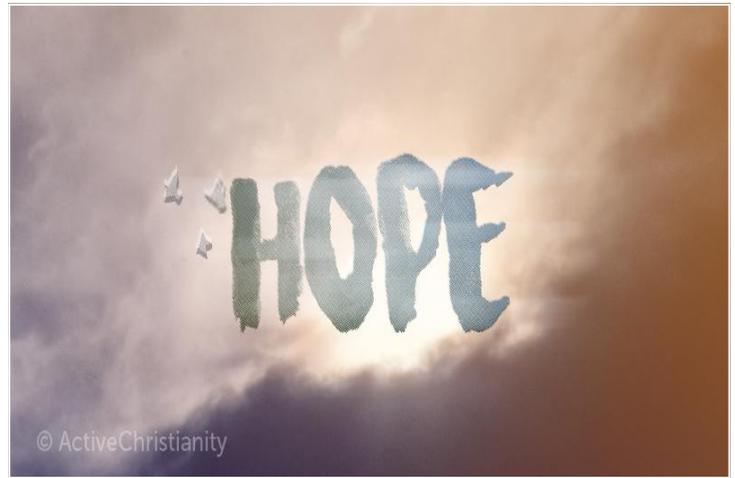
This time in our lives will come to an end. What I hope and pray is that those we meet in the weeks, months and years to come will know that we are Christians by our love; that we will really live up to our aim to be a family of faith where there's always room for one more and that we have grown in prayer and in trust of God.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you. We are doing our best to serve you but we know also that we have a God whose love never fails and who does not grow weary of being at work for and in the lives of those who love Him. Be of good cheer, be encouraged. Keep praying, keep trusting and keep finding ways to show the love of God to a community which can only benefit from it.

With every blessing

Haydon

# Emmanuel Group Prayer and Praise Hub



As Christians, it is always important that we are praying for the needs of the Church, our community and the wider world. In the particularly uncertain times that we live in now as we journey together through Covid-19 and all the changes to our lives that it is bringing, we in Emmanuel Group of Churches are committed to keeping on praying for our whole community.

Whether you are a Church goer or not, whether you'd call yourself a believer in God or not, we want to pray for you and the things you are facing. So let us know what we can be praying about for you at the moment. When people pray, stuff happens. And whether the answer to the prayer turns out to be 'yes' or 'not yet', or even 'no' it's good for us to hear what has happened and to be thankful to God. So when you feel you've had an answer, do let us know that, too.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future  
Jeremiah 29:11

## How do I add a prayer/praise request?

There are two ways to pass on a prayer request or report an answer to prayer. You can either use the handy interface on the right side of the screen or if you are happy for us to know who you are, you can email:

[praise@emmprayer.co.uk](mailto:praise@emmprayer.co.uk) or [prayer@emmprayer.co.uk](mailto:prayer@emmprayer.co.uk)

## What happens to my requests?

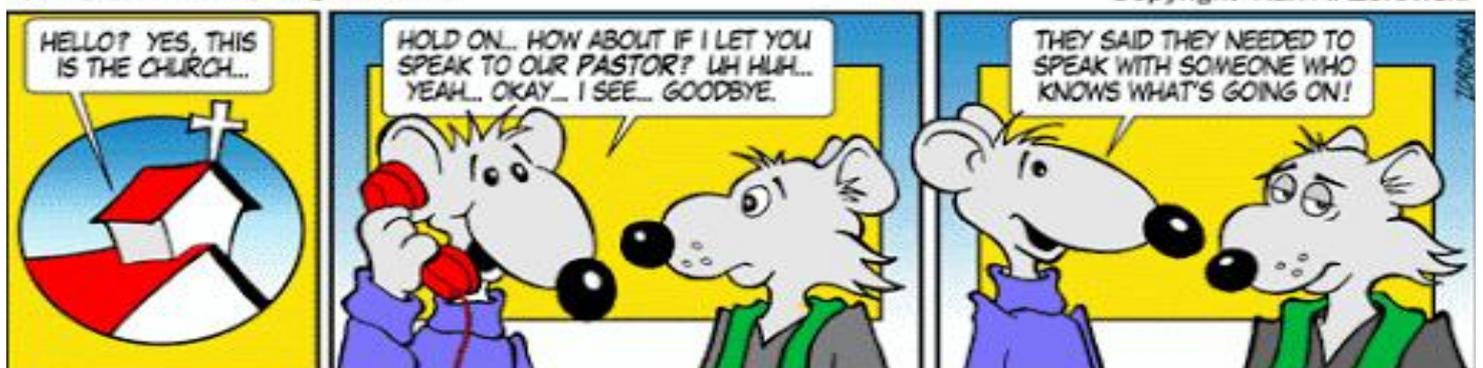
Requests will only be seen by a small team of Church leaders. If you are happy for your request to be shared publicly, we will do so, but we will not share your contact information and, if you prefer, will remove information which might let people know who you are.

The requests may be shared publicly in the following ways:  
On our website in our Prayers and Praise section.  
On the Emmanuel Group of Churches Facebook and Twitter pages.  
During acts of worship or video updates we share online.  
In our Group Weekly Prayer Sheet which is sent to the congregation by email.

If you don't want your requests to be shared publicly, they will only be shared via email with our confidential prayer and leadership

## Church Mice

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# faith in troubled times

Three thousand years ago, a person of deep faith wrote - and the people of God first sang some of the most beautiful words in history: *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I will not want. He leads me in green pasture."* (Psalm 23: 1,2)

They voice a confident trust that with God as their shepherd, **they will not wander:** *"He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul."* (vs 2 and 3) With remarkable faith, they declare that whatever life may bring, with the Lord as their shepherd, **they will not worry.**

They sing of God's ever-presence besides them at the darkest times: *"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff comfort me."* (v 4)

We are living through extraordinary and disturbing times. The coronavirus is causing death and deep disruption to our normal patterns of living. Tragedy has included members of the diocesan family. The total lockdown, self-isolation, suspension of public worship and closure of church buildings means that we have had no option but (in the phrase of the Archbishops) "to become a different sort of church".

People have found new ways of caring for each other. Good neighbour schemes have emerged. Our telephones have been busy. Many have shopped for the housebound, clapped in the street, lit candles, and put teddy bears and NHS rainbow signs in their windows. Many churches have produced deeply moving

acts of worship online.

I've discovered social media I didn't know existed! We have found new ways of being "together apart" and "holding hands in the Spirit". I believe as a Church we have rediscovered that our spiritual lives must be rooted in daily prayer and Bible reading at home, not just Sunday worship in church. Jesus is with us wherever we are - we hold on to his promise that he will be with us whatever happens.

I have recently become chair of a small national charity called ReSource whose aim is to help "little, local and ordinary churches" draw on the Holy Spirit for discipleship and mission.

The Director has written these helpful words: "Whatever these coming days hold, let's be mindful of one another, alert to the cry of a hurting world, and confident in the love of God, from which nothing can separate us." May God bless us all.

With my love, prayers and best wishes,

**Rt Revd John Holbrook**  
Bishop of Brixworth



## BMS World Mission

**"If you are a member of The Baptist Birthday Scheme, you may like to know how you are sharing in the fight against Covid-19."**

We have launched a specific Coronavirus appeal and the webpage for this has more details on our Coronavirus work: [www.bmsworldmission.org/news/coronavirus-world-response/](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/news/coronavirus-world-response/)

Please pray. Pray for protection of our medical staff as they treat patients with Covid-19 and pray for the hospitals in Chad and Nepal, preparing for the influx of new patients."

The link above shows the work of BMS generally but the particular areas supported through the Birthday Scheme are:

"We're providing equipment to Guinebor II hospital in Chad to keep the hospital running, and enable staff there to carry out crucial temperature screening to ensure people with Coronavirus symptoms get the appropriate care

We're enabling hospitals across Nepal to support patients in need by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and contributing to hospital running costs, as well as providing food and hygiene parcels to people with little to no daily income".



@nakedpastor.com

## Community Care Update – June and July

As you would expect, most things are still cancelled for now, but I thought it would be good to give you some feedback on the deliveries I have been doing and what it might mean to the community work and the debt centre.

### Deliveries and foodbank

The Café Emm and foodbank deliveries have been unexpectedly busy and successful. Both have drawn new people into the volunteering world. Many have been furloughed, or had enough of work, and have responded to the call we put out on facebook and in emails.

Some of the volunteers had really busy social lives, but this was taken from them as all groups stop running, so opportunities to serve further were in short supply and jumped in to help.

I have noticed when making deliveries is that often, because people are isolated for what ever reason, we may be the only human contact they have all week. It does allow us a minute or two to chat with people, - socially distancing of course.

We would love to do be able to talk longer, but are limited by the other deliveries we still need to do. Please pray for these people, and others in the community who are isolated, that they find ways to communicate with others.

I have been helping a lot in foodbank when I can, and want to add my own personal view.

It has been unbelievably busy, not just on Monday's and Wednesday's, when the Foodbank is open but the deliveries on Friday's are up to 60 a week now, served by about 8 drivers in all different car sizes. With the lockdown not appearing to relax too much yet, it will continue to test the numbers of parcels on collection and delivery days.

It is also testing food supplies. Food donations are down but we know people can't get out to donate food. However, people have been very generous in increasing their financial giving and for that we thank you all. It does mean we are needing to do 5 times as much shopping as we have done before but it does have the advantage of being able to buy what is needed when a particular item is getting low or has run out.

One new person helping in the foodbank has been a little gem, and it looks like they might stay to help with foodbank They have a wealth of experience, not specifically with foodbanks, but with ways of talking to suppliers to negotiate what we are after, and finding new suppliers as well.



You can contact me at the church office  
402150 or email:  
[paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk](mailto:paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk)

### Debt Centre

Currently I am having detailed training online. Then we will train the rest of the team. We know the lockdown is affecting people's finances and want to be ready and able to help when the time comes.

### And finally...

I have been asked by Julie, the fundraising expert, to collate some words from people I work with which will help with her funding bids to enable my work here at Emmanuel to continue beyond December.

This might be through working at FISH, Drop In, Board Games, Foodbank, Messy and other community projects I have run in the past, or look to run in the future. It has been really encouraging to read the comments that have been made by people I have worked with and also how new adventures have come together and new partnerships built.

If you have anything you would like to add, then please email me on

[paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk](mailto:paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk)

The last few months have been the most challenging I hope I will ever come across and it seems, as I write we aren't out of it yet. The community spirit has come to the fore in an amazing and wonderful way, so let's pray communities will continue to stick together and help each other and come out stronger than we have ever been.

*PAUL*



**The foodbank has been operating an express social distancing service since the beginning of the pandemic.** This has been challenging. I have broken the service down into four areas to make it easier to understand:

### Change of Service

The foodbank service has been moved from Emmanuel Church into the Unit on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Weston Favell Shopping Centre. This was something that had been agreed by the management team prior to the Pandemic. The new venue is much easier to store, pack and distribute the growing amount of food parcels, enabling us to meet the needs of our community.

We have now also included deliveries of food to those in financial hardship who are self isolating. These are delivered on Fridays.

### Change of demand

In April 2019 the total amount of people we fed was 502, in April 2020 the amount of people we have fed so far is around 600 and still growing. If this trend continues then we will have fed double the amount of people in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

### Donations

We have received an astonishing amount of money via our giving page and people donating cash. However, food donations have decreased as it has been difficult for people to buy extra produce at this time. This has been a challenge but we are starting to build our stocks to enable us to deliver the amount of food parcels for those who need them. We welcome donations of food or money. The foodbank is open Mon, Tues, Weds and Friday mornings 10am – 2pm for anyone who would like to donate.

### Volunteers

Due to self isolation we did initially lose a lot of volunteers. We have currently been working with a team of 10 volunteers. There has also been a stream of people who have volunteered their services just for the time of the pandemic. All the volunteers are working well together and have risen to the challenge. They are fantastic.

**Anne Woodley** (Weston Favell Centre Foodbank)

### Ways to Give

We don't know how long the current emergency will last but however long it lasts people will still need to be fed. If you have given financially to foodbank or have done so since the present crisis began or if you have donated food, **THANK YOU SO MUCH.** We couldn't do what we do without your support.

People have been asking how to make a donation of money to the foodbank instead of food. Which is understandable in the circumstances that we face today. You can do this via bank transfer to:

**EMMANUEL BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT  
NATWEST**

**Sort code: 60-15-55**

**Acc no: 73955787**

Alternatively, you can download a standing order mandate from the Emmanuel Church/foodbank website: [www.emmgroupp.org.uk](http://www.emmgroupp.org.uk) or you can donate money via the Weston favell centre foodbank page and follow the local giving link:

<https://locagiving.org/charity/weston-favell-centre-foodbank/>



**Weston Favell Centre foodbank operates from the shop in the centre. We will continue as long as we have supplies.**

**foodbank operates on  
Mondays 10–1pm and  
Wednesdays 10–1pm**

For everyone's protection and to comply with social distancing we ask that only one member of the household attends.

The unit is open to receive donations on Mon, Tues, Weds and Fri from 10 - 2pm

The Foodbank is closed on Thursdays.

**Thank you for your support!**

# YOUTH

So, this is now our new 'normal'. Hopefully you are all now aware that ALL youth groups and gatherings have been postponed until further notice...

A lot of things for young people will be happening in private groups on Facebook and Instagram. If you are a young person, or parent of a young person, please contact us and we will give you more information about those aspects of our life together.

**Facebook** if you have FB and haven't already done so, you can add me on [Mell AT Emmgroup](#) and then I can add you to the group [chat Emm3tribe](#) where we will be posting videos, challenges, studies, quizzes and worship videos in order to keep us all connected, encouraged and supported.

**ALL ARE WELCOME - YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF EMMANUEL**

There is also a closed group called [Nxt Generation](#) I will be posting links and videos from Soul Survivors youtube account. Parents, feel free to add my work FB for updates but please be aware, parents wont be added to Nxt Gen or the group chat as this is a space just for the youth, other than joint admins: Jan Burditt, Haydon Spencerly, Paul Foster, Fiona Potter and Rachel Tighe

## Whatsapp

This is a youth group chat called **prayer-hands** - set up for prayer requests only

## Instagram

Emmanuel Youth Northampton  
(emm\_youth)  
this is open to ALL

## GODSQUAD

Continues on whatsapp

## PARENTS

Join our parent group chat on whatsapp  
If you would like to be added, just let me know.

## HOPE Together

We have created a space to celebrate all the best [Online Youth Evangelism Resources](#). We are continually adding to this page as we come across amazing resources that help you reach young people online and disciple them to live evangelistically.

**Plus - Amplify youth stories**

Young people on the [Amplify](#) programme have made testimony videos to watch and share on social media – find the stories on [Youtube](#)

**KEEP SAFE, KEEP SANE,  
BUT MOST OF ALL...  
KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!**

MEL



# Cafe EMM

is running

a home

delivery service

To find out more

phone or text 07803 901936

or email:

[coffee.shop@emmanuelgroup.org.uk](mailto:coffee.shop@emmanuelgroup.org.uk)

Sp Adobe Spark

## Support people affected by Covid-19

### Café Emm - providing hot meals at home for vulnerable people

You can donate via our local giving page -

<https://localgiving.org/charity/emmanuelcoffeeshop/>

*Thank you for your support!*

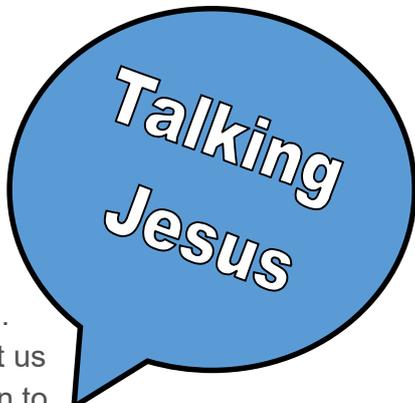
## Talking Jesus – free course

During the Covid-19 lockdown the Talking Jesus course is available to watch online as well as on DVD and USB. This promotional offer runs until the end of August 2020.

Visit [www.hopetogether.org.uk/talkingJesus](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/talkingJesus) to sign up to receive the promotional code.

There are six practical, video-based teaching sessions with inspirational testimonies to give real-life examples from people who are talking Jesus. There are also short parable-style films designed to get you thinking. Let us know how you use the course and let's look for opportunities in lockdown to help people get to know Jesus for themselves.

can order course booklets in English or Welsh from the HOPE shop



Talking  
Jesus

# Welcome to Yvonne and Simon

*Yvonne Desroches is getting ready to join us as our Assistant Curate at the end of June, I asked Alison Wooding who has ministered alongside Yvonne in Church Army over the last few years, to share her insights and wisdom, to help us to welcome Yvonne when she comes with her husband Simon at the end of June.*

The Church Army is a community of likeminded Christians who's heart and passion is for everyone everywhere to encounter Gods love and be transformed. Church Army evangelists are working within some of the most deprived and socially disadvantaged communities within the UK and Ireland.

Jesus called to the first believers and just as clearly He calls to us today. He called to Yvonne when he led her into Church Army, she heard his voice and followed that call faithfully and I for one am so delighted, because in Yvonne, I at times have heard the voice of Jesus speak directly to me. As a colleague and friend, I have been in awe of the easy and gentle way Yvonne can engage with others, especially those in pain and confusion.

I have been humbled by her faithfulness to the Gospel and her desire to hear the voice of Jesus. The voice she listened to when she felt prompted to explore ordination. I recall the pain she went through following that call and the sacrifice she has made to do so.

In Yvonne, you will have a mouthpiece... I don't mean that in a derogatory way, although by eck she can natter... I mean in her you will be on te receiving end of a woman of God who's faith and ministry within the Church Army, has led any many people to Christ and enabled them to be transformed.

I pray that when Yvonne enters your gates, she will be a herald and a conduit of Christ. That together with her and the whole of those in leadership and oversight in your church family collectively, will learn to listen to the voice of the shepherd, listen to hear what he has uniquely called you as a Christian community to be and to do in your locality, within and without your gates.

I pray that each and every one of you will hear Jesus call you by name and that with the loving care of your shepherds you will accept the invitation of THE SHEPHERD and be called out from behind your gates and be engaged in the redemptive work of the kingdom here and now, regardless of the current crisis, may we all proclaim the freedom that can only be found in Christ Jesus and may he be our comforter and our guide into the future that awaits us all. Lord lead us all beside the still waters and restore our souls.

Amen

## **Alison Wooding**

Assistant Dean of Community Church Army

You can read the full version of Alison's message at:

<http://emmgroup.org.uk/2020/05/03/a-message-for-our-churches-from-alison-wooding-assistant-dean-of-community-church-army/>



**Yvonne and Simon Desroches**

**Here are a few things that might interest you about me as we begin to get to know one another and journey together.**

## **Who am I?**

I am a wife to Simon, a mother and grandmother. Friends and family are treasures I value, included in this is being a commissioned member of the Church Army Community.

## **What can I offer?**

40 Years' worth of work in Nursing, the Police Authority and community resettlement have helped me to view life through many different perspectives and with different lenses. Community life experiences have equipped me with transferable skills that enable a flexible, compassionate, inclusive approach to life situations. I am a reflector.

## **What energises me?**

Pioneering brings great opportunities to encourage everyone to explore the big questions in life.

I love seeing people flourish and grasp opportunities for them to do so. Jesus is definitely in my boat and steers the way.

Our Chocolate Labrador both energises and wears me out! I love to play the Saxophone although this is a very new skill, so playing is a little hard on the ears for those listening, I live in hope that this improves over time.

Photography is something I enjoy and took over from my passion of scuba diving. I am no longer able to visit the bottom of the ocean, due to an ongoing disability! I love trying new things, having fun, and being around others.

Simon and I are very excited about where God is leading us. and looking forward to meeting everyone at the Emmanuel group of churches as we settle into life in Northampton.

Sending prayerful wishes to you all.  
May God Bless you and those whom you love always,

**Yvonne & Simon.**



# John Jeffreys

## Electrical

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

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 Wootton, Northampton

## DEADLINE

for items for the  
**Aug/Sept**  
**EDITION**  
 of  
**B.E.R.T**

**Friday**  
**17th**  
**JULY**

**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.

**SEE BERT ONLINE**  
**IN FULL COLOUR**

**on our website:**

**www.emmgroup.org.uk**



## Faxing Service

### Sending:

UK & N. Ireland	1st page	1.70
	Following page/s	0.50
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
	Following page/s	0.05

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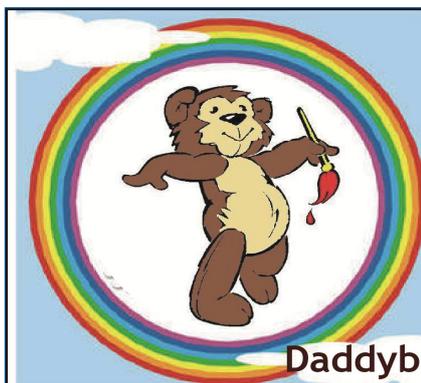
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 or visit  
[www.scb-automotive.co.uk](http://www.scb-automotive.co.uk)

## 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**

# PENTECOST



All of them were filled  
with the Holy Spirit

# stuff 4 kids 2 do



[www.mykidstime.com](http://www.mykidstime.com)

## Activities for Kids

Games, Arts  
& Crafts,  
Cooking,  
Competitions and more...

### My Kids Time Free App for iOS and Android.

**MyKidsTime** offer something for everyone and ensure there'll never be a dull day or an interminable summer break.

With this **FREE** app available for both iOS and Android you can discover a whole world of fun activities, ideas and recommendations for your kids.

Everything from arts and crafts, food ideas, parenting tips, competitions, entertainment and tech news, exclusive offers and more!

Download it now to check it out.

### 195 Christian activities for Kids

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/theactivmom/christian-crafts-and-activities-for-kids/>

## BIBLE KIDS

Catholic Education Resource

Word Bank

- Spirit
- Place
- Sky
- Fire
- Noise
- Astounded
- Wind
- House
- Tongues
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Language

And they were all filled with the holy Spirit



Find the Hidden Words



BIBLE KIDS . EU

Created by Nunzio Rubino  
31.05.2017



# SILENCE is GOLDEN

By Ken Clark

**This is not a homage to that great song from my youth 'Silence is Golden' sung by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, but rather the story of a journey that God has taken me on in recent years.**

A few years ago I felt the desire to improve and deepen my prayer life, so off I went to 'The Manna House' to buy or borrow any books on prayer. It did not take me long to realise that I was not destined to become one of the great intercessors of the church! Whether it was because I am a naturally lazy and undisciplined person I'm not sure, but I could not get over the feeling that prayer should be something more than a list of wants from God. So I decided to go back to grass roots and echoed the words of the disciples "Lord, teach us to pray". After all I reasoned if he taught them why shouldn't he teach me! But what happened was entirely unexpected.

I spent several days just sitting, waiting on God, occasionally offering the Lord's prayer or reading a Psalm. I began to really enjoy the silence and sitting in God's presence but I wondered when was he going to start teaching me about prayer! Little did I realise at the time that this was it, this was indeed prayer but at a deeper level than I had known.

Around this time someone gave me a little book by Christian writer Joyce Huggett on 'Contemplative prayer'. As I read this I began to realise that this was indeed the path that God was taking me on, but I couldn't believe that I was enjoying it so much. The times of silence and reflection and the fact that occasionally God would pop a tiny morsel of truth into my heart whether personal or a greater knowledge of him.

I believe bringing silence and some solitude into our lives is very necessary for our spiritual well being, but also quite a difficult discipline. Sometimes it can be that when we enter a time of silence alone, where we are without people to talk to, books to read, or TV to watch or phone calls to make or the internet to view then often an inner chaos can open up within us.

## Distractions

Sometimes these feelings can be so overwhelming that we can't wait to get busy again, sitting in silence does not mean that we immediately shut out all our inner doubts, anxieties, fears, bad memories, unresolved conflicts or whatever. In fact when we are on our own, removed from outer distractions, our inner turmoil manifests itself in full force.

We should not be frightened by this, or be tempted to give up, as we all well know there are many distractions in prayer. Some of them are fairly obvious and personal to us but I have learnt not to necessarily grit my teeth and will them away, which often does not work but to realise that there may be times when through these things God may actually be speaking to us, out of love, wanting to heal us.

One of the first things we realise as we enter along this path is that our lives are incredibly cluttered and many things even sensible, good things press their agenda upon us. We can learn to ignore many of these things but if something continually bothers us or causes unnecessary anxiety or worry then God may be speaking to us about it and we need to ask him to perhaps take us on a journey to discover where the root of these feelings come from. I had such an experience fairly recently.

I am a person who naturally feels inferior to others, my height is undoubtedly a factor, my lack of academic achievement or whatever it may be can be rooted in pride of course, but it is far more than that and as God took me back through my life I began to realise that I had continually strived to be accepted, had always felt rejection when there wasn't any and always felt the odd one out, (I actually believe that there are quite a few people who feel this way and I hope this is an encouragement to you.)

God took me back to some of the roots of these feelings going back into my childhood, even as a very young child where these seeds were sown, often people, kind, well meaning people even our parents in their care for us can inflict upon us their own sense of anxiety and stress. God showed me how delicate our process of formation is and how wonderfully we are created and has made me realise how sensitively we must deal with people because we can affect them for life.

So, you ask, am I now free of these feelings? nah not really, but I do know much of the power over me has gone from them, I no longer feel trapped, I have my moments but realise much has changed. I am who I am and I have learned to accept myself, because fundamental in this process I have come to realise how much God loves me warts and all.

Contemplative prayer is becoming much more a way of life for me now, one of the 'benefits' of the lock down is that we all have much more time on our hands and I hope we can use it to explore God more deeply and I really would encourage us to make a time each day for solitude and silence even if it is only 10 minutes, we don't have to pray anything, indeed if you do then you may be defeating the purpose. Just 'be' in the presence of God and see where he wants to take you.

Just as a final paragraph can I say that whilst I have emphasised a particular form of prayer I do realise that there is a lot more to it. Intercessions, the call to Christian action and behaviour and much more. But I have found that in silence, contemplative prayer can lead to a solid base where many of these things can spring from. God Bless everyone and stay safe!

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Are you worried, lonely,  
or unwell.

Do you need to talk?  
Jesus set the example of  
servanthood for us to follow and  
the Pastoral Care Team are  
here to help.

Please contact  
Precious or Sheila  
if you know of anyone who  
you think would appreciate  
our help.

As each one has received a special gift, employ it  
in serving one another. 1 Peter 4: 10

Precious Luke [preciousluke@emmgroupp.org.uk](mailto:preciousluke@emmgroupp.org.uk) - 07941 124159  
Sheila Angus [mailme5@btinternet.com](mailto:mailme5@btinternet.com) - 07779 681695



## A testimony by Dr Julian Urban, a 38-year-old doctor in Lombardy

Up until two weeks ago, my colleagues and I were atheists... I always laughed at my parents when they went to church.

Nine days ago, a 75-year-old pastor came to us for medical help. He had grave respiratory problems, but he had a Bible with him and it impressed us that he was reading the Bible to the people who were dying and holding their hands.

We were all tired, discouraged doctors, psychologically and physically spent. Strangely, we found that we were listening to him... We realised that we have reached the limits of what man can do. We needed God, and we have begun to ask for his help, when we have a few moments free.

We cannot believe that we who were fierce atheists are now seeking for interior peace by asking the Lord to help us...

The 75-year old pastor has now died. But, despite the fact that in the last three weeks we have had over 120 people die in our unit, and we are all exhausted and feel destroyed; he succeeded, despite his own condition and our own difficulties, to bring us a PEACE that we no longer hoped to find.

This testimony was gathered by Gianni Giardinelli and translated by Giuseppe Pellegrino.



**A 5 day virtual conference you can attend from your living room, or your kitchen, your garden, or your home office!**

30+ sessions, including Bible teaching, interviews with thought leaders, sessions looking at creativity in the arts, and creative

workshops designed to be done at home.

Digital workshops including origami, Bible journaling, and lettering, an exclusive Facebook group during the event, with live Q&As, quizzes, and community fun. - and 12-month access to content recordings

How Will It Work?

**The summit will take place from Wednesday, 17 June to Sunday, 21 June, 2020.**

Each day will start at 2pm with Bible teaching, followed by interviews, keynote sessions, and creative workshops.

In the evenings, we'll have live community events in our Facebook group, including things like quizzes, Q&As, and an online market.

**You will be able to re-watch the recordings for 12 months after the conference.**

A full timetable will be released to attendees by Saturday 13th June as we continue to confirm speakers & sessions.

Tickets are available from:

**<https://cheerfullygiven.samcart.com/referral/GP5YevY8/unRjnVYwKyuAy>**

## THY KINGDOM COME: May 21st – 31st

Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement, characterised by mass public gatherings and worship, has been radically revamped due to Covid-19.

We've tailored it to enable churches, families and individuals to pray and worship in their homes, using our adapted resources, in line with social distancing guidelines

This year, Christians we are not only encouraged you to pray for others to know the love of Christ, but to also practically demonstrate your love and care through action during the 11 days, an initiative we have called '[Prayer and Care.](#)'

We have also developed new 'Thy Kingdom Come' resources to equip you to worship at home.

For churches, there is an [Upper Room resource](#) – a [virtual prayer room](#) where churches can take part in continuous prayer alongside international prayer organisation – 24/7 prayer.

For families, the [Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map](#) will aid children and young people explore prayer in a fun way.

The map is full of activities based on the daily themes of Thy Kingdom Come and comes to life through an app with bonus digital content. This includes Bible story animations, video reflections from well-known Christians, Archbishop Justin Welby, CBeebies' presenter Gemma Hunt, Guvna B, Eye Can Talk author Jonathan Bryan, author of the *Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd Jones and storyteller Philip Glassborow.

We will also relaunch our award-winning app which will enable anyone with a smartphone to access the content and journey through the 11 days of prayer. The app has been translated into eight languages and last year was downloaded in almost 100 countries worldwide.

## Discover the Bible with friends

Around the world people have been using the Discover Bible App to read the Bible with friends, and many have come to faith as a result.

You can set up a WhatsApp group or [Zoom](#) call to read the Bible with a small group and use the Discover App questions to discuss what you are reading.

Find out more about the Discover Bible App here:

[@discoverAppDBS](https://discoverapp.org)



## Candles in the Dark

Special gatherings to encourage Christian disciples to light up the darkness

Featuring: Prayer, praise & worship, teaching.  
DVD on the life and mission of William Carey,  
Group discussions in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
6 – 7:30pm on Sunday 14th & 21st June.

Conducted by: Zoom Webinar

Everyone welcome. Please register with Patrick by phone or email so we can contact you with log in details.

Contact: Patrick Barker on 07821 719736  
or patrick@parkroadbaptist.co.uk

## Creative Christianity Summit

A 5-day virtual conference exploring faith and creativity that you can fit around lockdown life.

Join us for 30+ sessions, including Bible teaching, interviews with thought leaders, sessions looking at creativity in the arts, and creative workshops designed to be done at home. Plus, an exclusive online space for Q&As, quizzes, and community fun.

<https://cheerfullygiven.samcart.com/referral/GP5YevY8/unRjninnVYwKyuAy>

See BERT page 13 for more information



## Norris Tours

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the Group Holiday to North Wales has been cancelled for this year but is

**Being transferred**  
**to 5th June to 12th of June 2021.**

## **GROUP HOLIDAY 2021**

**June 12th to 19th**

**To North Wales**

**Chatsworth House Hotel  
Llandudno**

**The hotel has a indoor heated  
swimming pool.**

**Cost is £499.00 for eight days**

**£20.00 deposit to book yourself a place**

## **Day Trips 2020**

**Easton Walled Gardens Lincs on Wednesday May 20th**  
**AND**

**Gloucester/ Warwick steam railway on Saturday June 27th**

**ARE CANCELLED**

**A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ABOUT THE FOLLOWING  
TRIPS AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE,**

**Tewkesbury on Saturday 25th July cost £15.00** extraordinary riverside medieval shopping town, plus a market and a town that enters the Britian in Bloom.

**Weston Super Mare on Saturday August 29th cost £18.00** a great seaside resort with plenty of things to do plus the wonderful sand sculptures, big wheel and plenty of shops.

**Lincoln on Saturday September 12th cost is £15.00** where you can visit the Cathedral for around £8.00 or take in the many shops in the quirky streets and shopping centres.

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

**Book with Kathy Norris**

**01604 494057 or 07923017619**

For more information or to book with a deposit of

**£5.00pp**

## The Ministry Team

Revd Phil Snelson 401540 philip.snelson@methodist.org.uk  
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**B.E.R.T** Editor Liz Bateman liz@lizzywhizz.biz

### Emmanuel Group Weekly News-sheet

Jasmyne Price 07747 052 679 jasmyne.price@gmail.com

EMMANUEL GROUP of CHURCHES BILLING BROOK ROAD  
 NORTHAMPTON NN3 8JR

### RECTORY FARM COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

### BOOTHVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

### EMMANUEL CHURCH

Weston Favell Centre,  
 Billing Brook Road  
**Sunday service at 10.30**  
**Weds Communion at 1.30** (30 min)

**Group Office** - Mon - Fri 10 - 2

**Café Em** (coffee shop) - Mon - Fri 10- 2

# The Emmanuel Group of Churches what we are doing during this crisis

## On our website:

[www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk)

While we are unable to meet together and many of us are isolated at home, you can find daily posts reflecting on Bible readings which you can find on the [Bible Reflections page](#) and hope you find them helpful and encouraging. For Sundays there will be service plans, songs, talks and sermons that we would have preached in our normal church services. You will find material for people of all ages to worship and pray on the [Worship page](#).

If the pandemic has brought up questions about life, hope and faith for you, we understand because we too have questions about life and faith. That's healthy and the only way we can get to good answers which help us, is if we get there together. If you have a question, or would like to talk to someone, please get in touch with us via the [Contact us page](#). We'd love to spend time with you.

If you have requests for prayer or want to tell us all a story relating an answer to prayer, we have a new Prayer and Praise Hub where you can do just that at: [www.emmprayer.co.uk](http://www.emmprayer.co.uk)  
*We will only share your requests or updates if you allow us to do so.*

You can also find other things we are doing on our social media pages, facebook - Emmanuel Group of Churches and Twitter - [Lots of things for young people](#) are happening on Facebook and Instagram. (see page 7 of BERT)

**If you don't have access to the internet;** if you find yourself in need of help, a listening ear or something else in these days do get in touch with us in the Church Office. **01604 402150**  
 We will do all we can to find the right way to support you.

**Or if you know of someone who doesn't have internet access and may be in need of our support, please let us know.**

Financially, these are going to be tough times for everyone. Churches and charitable institutions will not be exempt from the struggle.

If you normally give financially to the Church, thank you. Please keep giving as generously as you are able to. If you would like to give regularly to the Church, you can do this via bank transfer: EMMANUEL BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT  
 NATWEST

Sort Code: 60-15-55  
 Bank Account Number: 73955787

If you'd prefer to give another way, you can give via: <https://localgiving.org/charity/emmanuelgroup/> which has the option for single or regular gifts.

Similarly, the Foodbank:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/weston-favell-centre-foodbank/>

Café Emm is also in need of support to enable them to keep



I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE'S GOING TO BE WITH ME FOREVER. BUT HE JUST DOESN'T GET IT

# SERVICES in JUNE 2020

Date/time	Readings	Lead & Preach	Prayers	Testimony	<u>Wednesday Communion</u> 1.30pm
Sunday 10.30					
7th	Acts 2:22-41 Assurance that Jesus is Messiah	<u>Communion</u> Haydon Spenceley + Bradley Mills	Maureen Luke and Kris Hatherly	Ken Clark	Haydon Spenceley
14th	Acts 2:42-47 The First Church	Haydon Spenceley and Colin Pye	Peter Angus and David Bell	Maureen Luke	Chris Pearson
21st	Acts 3:1-10 The Power of the name of Jesus	<u>Communion</u> Haydon Spenceley & James Fearnley	Doug Spenceley and James Fearnley	Peter Angus	Doug Spenceley
28th	Acts 4:1-22 Peter & John on trial	<u>Communion</u> Doug Spenceley & Chris Pearson	Stuart Jenkins and David Bell	James O'Sullivan	Haydon Spenceley

# SERVICES in JUNE 2020

5th	Acts 4:23-31 The Believers Pray	<u>Communion</u> Doug Spenceley, Haydon Spenceley + Yvonne Desroches	David Bell	James Fearnley	Haydon Spenceley
12th	Acts 4:32-36 Sharing What We Have To Give	Haydon Spenceley + James Fearnley	Ken Clark and Kristin Hatherly	Yvonne Deroches	Doug Spenceley
19th	Acts 5:1-11 Don't Hold On To What We Have	Yvonne Desroches and Obi Hez	Maureen Luke and Sue Pearson	Peter Angus	Chris Pearson
26th	Acts 5:12-16 Healing In the Name of Jesus	Chris Pearson	Stuart Jenkins and Yvonne Desroches	Kristin Hatherly	Doug Spenceley

**Join us online every Sunday at 10.30am**

**for a Live Streamed Service**

**(+ a short prayer & praise on Wednesdays at 7pm)**

**at**

**[www.facebook.comTheEmmanuelGroupOfChurches](http://www.facebook.com/TheEmmanuelGroupOfChurches)**

**You can find daily Bible reflections and 'thoughts for the day'**

**at**

**<http://emmgroup.org.uk/category/bible-reflections/>**

**We hope you will find these helpful**

**Please visit our website for up to date information**

**[www.emmgroup.org.uk](http://www.emmgroup.org.uk)**