

BERT

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & RECTORY FARM TIMES

What's Important in Your life?

Dear Friends

The envelope from DVLC dropped through the letterbox. Sudden realisation: I've reached the age when I have to justify that I am healthy enough, competent enough and alert enough to be able to continue driving! "No problem," I hear you say (those of you who've gone through this yourselves), "just fill out the DVLC form, it's just a formality."

Online, even, if you've got the patience. But page two is the challenge – that long list of notifiable health questions.

As I looked down the list, oh dear, tick, possible tick, possible tick, tick! It became clear that much of what I know as the normality of my current life might change significantly. By the hand of the bureaucrat.

And those of you who are members of the Church of England may know that this is also the time when the clergy licence to minister ceases, and it is at the discretion of the diocesan bishop to grant a further licence to minister.

If for either or both of those things I received the answer 'No', life would be radically different. Now, this isn't some dramatic disastrous event that has turned some of your lives upside down in a moment – it's just the normal stuff of life that we all face in one way or another as we get older. But it brings you to a momentary full stop when it happens. It makes you question what's important in your life. Do I need to continue doing things the way I have up until now? (Do I want to??) Is it all worth it? What will others think of me? How will the gap be filled in my own life? And how will those areas which were so important to me until now continue to thrive without me? Big questions.

In so many ways, the period of Lent that we've been going through in the usual cycle of the Church's year is just the same – a time of self-questioning, of confronting who we are, what direction we are going in, what direction we should be going in, what our true relationship with Jesus is. How can I hear and respond to what God is prompting me to be and do in the coming days, months and years?

As I write, we're still on that journey through Lent. For many of us, we're being challenged through studying Paula Gooder's excellent *Journey to the Empty Tomb* Sunday by Sunday and in our house groups and personal devotions. It asks the simple



Doug Spenceley

question 'Why did Jesus die?' And then, step by step, calls us to search within both the Bible and ourselves for answers. A time to stop, reassess, reflect, pray. What does the death of this Jesus mean to me and for me?

Why not come and join us at any of the services over the rest of Lent, Holy Week and Easter? See the lists of services elsewhere in this edition. In particular, you might like to come on:

14th April: Palm Sunday, including distribution of palm crosses

19th April: Good Friday (at Boothville Community Church)

21st April: Easter Day, the day of Jesus' resurrection

or any of the other events shown in this edition of BERT

As we move forward, one thing is for sure, life goes on. The thing is, Jesus faced the same self-questioning, the same emotions and urgent desire to stop and change things back as we do. 'Father, if you are willing,' is Jesus' desperate prayer, 'remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.' (Luke 22:42) It takes a brave person to do that – surrender everything over to the will of God his Father.

Jesus knows that he has to go through the most horrendous pain, suffering and death, in order for God's future world to take shape here on earth. It's God's promise, it's the firm hope we can all have: Easter always follows Good Friday; Resurrection follows death. In Jesus' dying and rising again, death truly is conquered. That means, whatever pain or suffering we have to go through or indeed are going through at this moment, Jesus knows, he's been there. And he brings hope. And he brings joy. And he brings resurrection, new life, life beyond the Cross, life beyond the empty tomb. Can you believe it? Yes, I hope. And that's something to be thankful for and hopeful for.

May Lent be a time of inner growth and deepening faith, may Easter bring you joy and peace, and new life through the resurrected Jesus.

And may God continue to pour out his blessings upon you.

Doug

P.S. You may be pleased to know that DVLC did grant a new licence for the usual ongoing three year period, and Bishop Donald has graciously relicensed me to continue my existing roles for the next five years. Halleluia!

And what a joyful occasion it was, the usual midweek Holy Communion service in the small crowded chapel at Bouverie Court, surrounded by representatives of each area of my life and ministry – the Diocesan Education Team and Board of Education, Emmanuel Churches, my family (including the dual-rolled Haydon), those who work at Bouverie Court who are involved in other aspects of my ministry life, and even someone who was there just because he was in the building.

Thank you.

'not an ordinary church'

From the first time I heard about Emmanuel till now, there is this phrase in my head: Emmanuel is not an ordinary church at all. But I think in a very relaxed and healthy way.

From the first day I felt welcomed to be part of this family. People were greeting me really friendly, asking me who I was, telling me that their father had been to Germany with the army and they really like German sausages ...

(at one point I stopped counting how often I heard that), and asking me where I learnt that terrible English (English people are polite, so they said it was quite good, which I slowly started to believe after couple of months, when in fact it became alright).

And also from the first day I was thrown into work I had never done before. It started with taking foodbank clients to the coffee shop, offering a cuppa and bite and getting to know the other person. It was challenging in the beginning, but made me learn a lot.

And I really appreciated getting broad range of "work experience" which probably no other church would have offered: Building tents and teaching Ultimate Frisbee at Soul Survivor; listening to strangers in the coffee shop; falling into the place of organizing messy church in the shopping centre.

The ordinary church stuff was quite good as well: preaching, leading services, playing the terrible piano at Rectory Farm, praying in tongues, I mean English, but also playing football or hide and seek with children, making a coffee for Haydon and then have long church meetings... ok I see you get bored - but I could go on a lot! It was just great to be trusted, that I could do all this things, and being supported in doing so.

Emmanuel is quite exceptional in terms of accepting people as they are. When I led a service, people were happy with me doing that, even if I was really nervous and far from getting all things right. I can also see this attitude in the coffee shop, that literally everybody is welcome there.

I was also amazed by the amount of people who are engaged in all kind of church activities, foodbank, helping in the coffee shop on Saturday, R-Zone and other groups during the week, also the fact that Haydon does one service or less on a Sunday and that there are more then ten lay readers is quite different to German circumstances.

I also appreciated how few arguments I heard concerning the clash of denominations. As an ecumenical by heart, this experience gives me hope, that things might also change in other places.

At last it's just to say thank you very much for the great I could spend time with you. I appreciated that five months a lot and I'll miss you. Blessings from Germany

All the best,

Martin Hinz



**KETTERING SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
SPRING CONCERT**

Verdi
The Force of Destiny

Tchaikovsky
Piano Concerto No. 1
Soloist - Jill Morton

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Les Biches

Stravinsky
Firebird Suite

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Children under 12 Free

Tickets available at:
www.kettsymphorch.co.uk
and on the door



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David Bell's... Boothville Diary



A tale of two licences

Rev. Doug Spenceley

On 13th March at Bouverie Court, the Bishop of Peterborough renewed Doug's licence as Associate Priest at The Emmanuel Group of Churches with particular attention to Boothville Community Church.

Doug's licence as the Bishop's appointed Vicar for Schools was also renewed. His responsibility in this role, is to offer spiritual and pastoral support for Church Schools at the time of vacancies.

Doug continues to be a member of our clergy team who is much appreciated throughout the Emmanuel Group and in particular, the congregation at Boothville are truly graced by Doug regularly leading their services.



Maureen 'Precious' Luke

When Precious started going to Emmanuel Church there was more than one Maureen. (Timms, Down, Sherwood etc) This began to cause confusion. A solution was needed and a wise member of the Church named her Precious.

Precious also has two licences. One as a Church of England Reader Minister and the other is a unique licence given to her by Bishop Donald for 'Pastoral responsibility for Boothville Community Church'.

Since the licensing, Precious has demonstrated, both by her caring approach and visits, that she is truly gifted.

To call her Precious showed insight, she is definitely precious to all at Boothville Community Church.



Ten prayers for our nation

adapted from 'Prayers for our divided nation' by Martyn Eden, political editor with Premier Christian Communications Ltd

Father, we pray that those who lead our country would govern with integrity. Grant them wisdom to make good decisions and the conviction to implement them.

Lord, where there is division in our land let your Church proclaim the reconciling love of Christ; where there is hatred, let your peace reign.

God, our provider, in the midst of economic uncertainty we pray for those for whom making ends meet is a daily struggle; please supply their every need.

Lord, help us as a nation to defend the cause of the orphan and the widow. Let us love and care for the immigrant among us as we love ourselves.

Father, for all those fearful about what the future might hold for our nation, please comfort, protect and guide them.

God of love, keep us from hating those we disagree with. Give us the humility to seek to understand those with opposing views.

Father God, we pray that you would protect this nation from those who plan evil against us. Please turn them from error towards your truth

Jesus, King of kings, we know that there is no political answer to our nation's deepest needs. May we place our hope in God, not man.

Jesus, we pray for an end to the falsehood that corrupts our national life. Instead, may your spirit of truth transform this land.

Our father in heaven, let your kingdom come and your will be done in the United Kingdom as in heaven. Cause our nation to turn to you as Lord and Saviour. Amen



Mark 10: 47-52 (NLT)

"47 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" 50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. 51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

Just A Thought!

Lent gives us an opportunity to appreciate all that Jesus did for us as he willingly approached the cross. Is he asking us the question, "What do you want me to do for you?" How are we going to respond? Even though Bartimaeus experience opposition, his focus was on Jesus and his faith was rewarded.

19/001 - Precious Luke

Opportunities to serve in our communities



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**

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



Northampton

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



Due to an increase in the number of people who need our support, our stocks of donated food are running low. A list of food we need desperately for the foodbank follows...

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fish

Pasta/Curry Sauce

Coffee - small and family jars

Granulated Sugar

UHT milk - All types

Oil - Small and large bottles

Salt

Men's Toiletries - Including razors, shaving foam, shower gel and deodorant

Toilet rolls

Squash - No added sugar

Fruit Juice

Rice

Thank you!

Treasurers Finance Report on 2018 (Emmanuel Group of Churches)

Looking back on 2018, I want to begin by expressing my thanks for the support given by Finance Team Members during 2018. In particular Grant Timms, Assistant Treasurer, Geoffrey Herbert, Gift Aid Secretary, Meriel Mears, Salaries and Wages and all other members of the Finance Team, Kevin Potter, Ralph Thompson, Sylvia Rowley, Doug Spenceley, Jenny Cole, John Weaver and of course Haydon and Jo Spenceley for their hospitality at Orchard Hill.

During 2018, Geoffrey stepped down as Chair of Finance and has been replaced by Kevin. Geoffrey has over many years been an excellent Chair of Finance and Gift Aid Secretary. He is remaining as a member of Finance Team.

10 *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!* **11** *Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease.] Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. 12* *"Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.*

I am thankful to you all for your generosity over the last year, and for many years before too, which enables Emmanuel to be a giver of generosity and a Church which seeks to be a beacon of light and hope to our community. Anyone looking at us would have to see that we are blessed. We want to steward our finances in a positive way. Your giving along Biblical lines helps us to be able to do that.

2018 was in some ways an experimental year in the way we set the budget. Instead of declaring a deficit at the start of the year a balanced budget was set. The flexible performance income indices were inflated to offset expenditure which are in the main fixed.

Ambitious income targets for Lettings and Giving were set.

This experiment failed miserably. Lettings were down by £11K on budget, not helped by the loss of two major hirers in late 2018, which cost about £6K in lost revenue.

All giving was £2.5K down on budget.

However comparing 2017 giving against 2018 giving as a Group of Churches – (Emmanuel, Boothville & Rectory Farm), we are 2.05% up on 2017 giving.

This is extremely encouraging and I would like to thank all Church members for their continued generosity.

At the end of 2018 our General Reserves – "Free Funds" stood at £2,245.00. This is an extremely worrying situation. It means that we are having to use Restricted Funds to pay our bills. Ideally our reserves should be around £13.5K – One months outgoings.

Initial results from the Auditor show a deficit at the end of 2018 of £3,738.00. We failed to pay the December 2018 Parish Share payment of £4,815.00. We also only paid 50% of the Methodist Assessment from September 18.

If we had paid the December 18 Parish Share payment of £4,815.00 and the full Methodist Assessment for all of 2018, we would be looking at a deficit for 2018 of around £17K.

We were so close to paying our Parish Share budgeted target for 2018 @ 96.67% of the request. Not paying the last payment meant we dropped to 88.62%. (The average payment for the Greater Northampton Deanery in 2018 was 79.24%)

The 2019 budget agreed by the Trustees on 26th November 2018 forecast a projected surplus for the year of £4.4K.

Whilst we are only in early February 19, and I have to be honest, this projection is already under threat.

Essential Electrical Insurance work has cost £3.5K, 50% of our 2019 maintenance budget.

The Emergency Lighting has failed and requires essential work, currently awaiting a quote BUT potentially expensive.

When the budget was set, I was under the impression that Mountain of Fire would return. This is not the case and the Lettings Budget has been hit by a £7.2K shortfall on the 2019 budget figure.

Our current Financial situation is not sustainable. We currently have Denominational Costs of £82K per annum – Anglican Parish Share of £59,760.00 (£4,980.00 monthly) and Methodist Assessment of £22,776.00 (£1,898.00 monthly) - £6,878.00 every month – given our average monthly giving is £7,400.00, you can see that we rely heavily on our Lettings income to survive.

In reality we are living beyond our means and there is very little we can do to reduce our outgoings. We could look at Administration costs and Cleaning costs, in my opinion currently not an option.

If we go down to one (stipendiary full-time) minister supported by whichever denomination, we would be financially stable. We would not be paying our bills by using restricted funds to survive.

Harsh facts but something we all need to think and pray about.

We currently have so many wonderful activities going on under the umbrella of the Emmanuel Group of Churches. A thriving Coffee Shop (Café Emm), Weston Favell Centre Food Bank, Community Care, Youth Activities, Family Tots. If the Church collapsed financially all this outreach to the Community would be lost.

My apologies for being negative but I would be failing in my duty as Treasurer if I did not be truthful and appraise you of the current situation.

Kind Regards

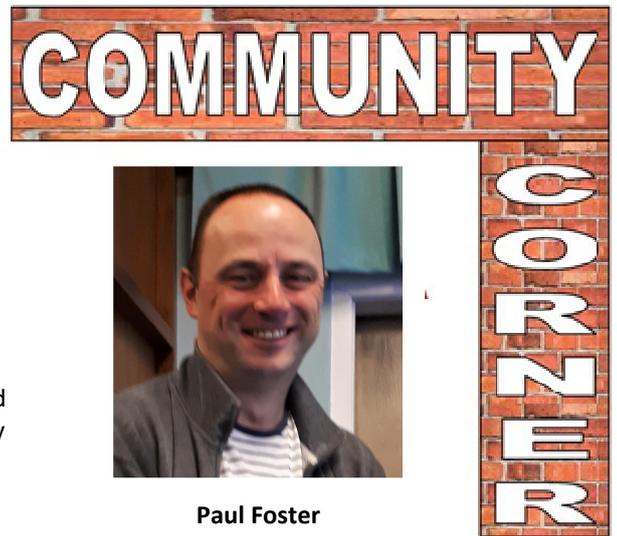
Mike Maddocks

Emmanuel Group of Churches - Treasurer



Community Care Update

March 2019



Paul Foster

Contact me at the office
402150 or email

paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk

Community Care Update – April

I have just realised that this is my two year birthday, so it's maybe a good time to reflect on what has been happening.

In March I was invited to a Methodist Re-imagine evening to talk about some of the things I do, and was genuinely surprised by what we have managed to achieve in the community; finding different opportunities and creating different ways to work with residents, councillors and community groups.

I continue to be touched by messages from people we encounter and reflect on the way we have been able to support them. Whether that has been through Foodbank, FISH, Messy Specials, the Photo Competition, One-to-one befriending, Carol singing or Litter picking. The list goes on and on. I thank God for all his guidance on this, and to you, who give time and prayers and support me in my work.

Now, a plug for the exciting things coming up, next month!

Board Game Cafe

Come along to our board games cafe in Cafe Emm.

We have quite an ever-increasing selection of games for you to play. If you have a specialist game, you would like to bring along, I more than happy with that. The cost is just £1 to cover tea, coffee, biscuits.

Dates for April and May will be 1st, 15th April or 20th May 2-4pm, won't meet on 4th May due to bank holiday

FISH (Food and Fun In School Holidays)

For Easter, FISH will be running twice, at Rectory Farm Community Centre due to maintenance work at the school.

Tuesday 9th and 16th April between 12 & 2

If you can help in any way, please let me know.

And on the 16th April and 29th May, due to success of FISH, a large group of people will be running events around Blackthorn, including street football, fire engines and much more.

There will be more publicity about this when I get the info.

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 10am - 12am, meet outside Emmanuel.

Depending on numbers we hope to cover the area immediately around Emmanuel, the car park and around the police station

And, if you enjoy litter picking that much, Brookside Residents

have their annual Spring Clean on Sun 14th April at 10:45,

meet in the car park behind Costcutters,

and Southfields Residents on Sat 13th Apr at 11am

meeting at corner Little Gull and Barley Hill

Brookside Drop in

Runs every Thursday morning (except 11th & 18th April)

at Brookside Community Centre. You don't need to live in Lings or Lumbertubs, just pop in for coffee, cake and chat - or tea and biscuits - between 9 & 12.

Acts 435 (www.acts435.org.uk)

I thought it might be helpful to put the bible verse, which the charity is based on:

Acts 4:35 New International Version (NIV)
35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

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

So that's me done for another month!

Paul

Cherry picking

The spirit of God is upon me.... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God. Isaiah 61.1, 2

Jesus read, "... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. Luke 4.19, 20

Yep. Jesus is guilty of cherry-picking. He reads the part about God's favour, and omits the bit about vengeance.

He does that all the time.

You have to.

There are different voices in scripture, different versions of God: vengeful and non-violent. You can't have them both. Pick one.

Jesus did.

Take sides; commit yourself to grace, to healing, to redemption.

You don't need to give equal time to vengeance.

To hell with hell.

The Spirit of God is upon us to proclaim God's grace and omit vengeance.

Only when we get over violence will the world be saved.

The Spirit of God is upon us.

The bishop's visit

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook.



Now beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?" After a moment's silence, one child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

Keys: Recall & Re-register

Due to the problems we have recently experienced, that is 4 unauthorised entries in 3 weeks, it has become necessary to review who has which keys & update the list accordingly.

If I have not contacted you directly & you hold any keys for the Emmanuel Building, external or internal, please could you contact the office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Linda Withers.
Admin & Building Manager

DBS CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

If your DBS Certificate, is over three years old you will need to renew it. I can email the information to you. Also if you are working with children or vulnerable adults you need to have done the diocesan safeguarding training and confirm to me when this was done. If you go on the website all the information is there.

Please also make sure that you give the signed self declaration form to either myself or Paul Foster. Many thanks.

Kristin Hatherly
Safeguarding co-ordinator

Cleaner for the Emmanuel Building Required

Start date: 20th April 2019

Wages: currently £9.00 per hour

Hours: 20 per week

13.00 to 17.00 Sunday - Thursday
(some flexibility may be available)

occasional Saturdays may also be necessary

Please apply in writing to Emmanuel Church Office
or email linda.withers@emmanuelgroup.org.uk

Applications by 9am Thursday 11th April 2019

Interviews to be held week commencing 15th April 2019.



CALLING ALL YOUTH

SUNDAY

10.30am



junior church for 4 - 18 years
+
creche for under 4's

@ emmanuel
on the 1st and 3rd
Sunday of the month

Jammout

if you're secondary school age.
😊

The Christian youth group for you

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fridays 7-9pm

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★ **testimonies, film nights,**

group discussions, games nights ★

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in term time AGE 14+

BIBLE STUDY

'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
MAY
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 of
B.E.R.T

Friday
19th
April

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

at our website:
www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk

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 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.

As we celebrate Easter, it raises the question:

What difference can the Resurrection make to my life?

My past is forgiven:

Have you ever been half-way through a project and wanted to start again? In life we all have regrets about things we have done, said or thought. The good news is that Jesus died to forgive these things: *'All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's cross.'* (Colossians 2:14, The Message).

The resurrection is the guarantee that we can know Jesus' pardon and forgiveness. Do we need to let go a load of guilt and un-forgiveness that we are carrying?

My present is under control:

How often do we say *'My life is out of control.'* We can't control life, but God can! The *'incomparably great power at work for those who believe'* is the same power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:20).

God promises us the power that we need to face any situation, as we trust Him: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13).

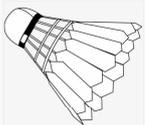
My future is secure:

Death is the great certainty, *'one out of one dies!'* Yet Jesus overcame death by the resurrection, that we might experience the life of heaven, both now and for eternity. *'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.'* (John 11:25,26).

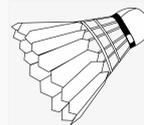
We don't need to fear death; but if we are to really live, we have to be ready to die! How does the resurrection affect our view of death?

'The best news the world has ever had came from a cemetery near Jerusalem: the tomb was empty!'

Revd Paul Hardingham



**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



...and when it comes to 'the peace' I want all those who want to stay in Europe to shake hands with all those who want to leave...

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'smission 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.

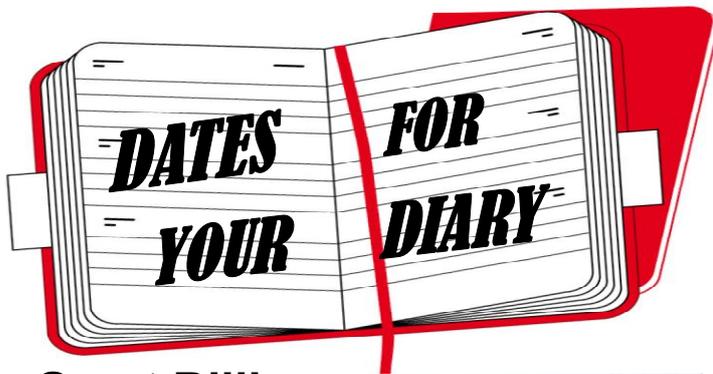
More information can be found on our website:

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 market 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 2019



The Racecourse, Kettering Rd, NN1 4LG

We are excited to announce the second Revive Northampton annual Gospel Celebration outreach event. *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."* Mark 16: 15- 8

Does your church want to get involved in prayer, worship and sharing the Good News of Jesus to the people in Northampton? Our aim is that through the unity of the local churches we will win souls for the Kingdom of God.

What to expect

Sharing the Good News of Jesus, Live Gospel music, Sharing testimonies of salvation, Praying for healing in our mind, body and spirit throughout the afternoon.

We are inviting all who know Jesus to come and gather together as one church and all who don't yet know about Jesus and would like to know more.

There will also be: Bouncy Castle / Candy Floss/ Slush Ice drink for the children, Food and Free tea & coffee.

If you would like more info about the event
please contact us on **07459800857**



MONDAY 1st APRIL at 7.30pm

Prayer & Praise

ABINGTON AVENUE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

157 Abington Ave, Northampton

NN1 4QA

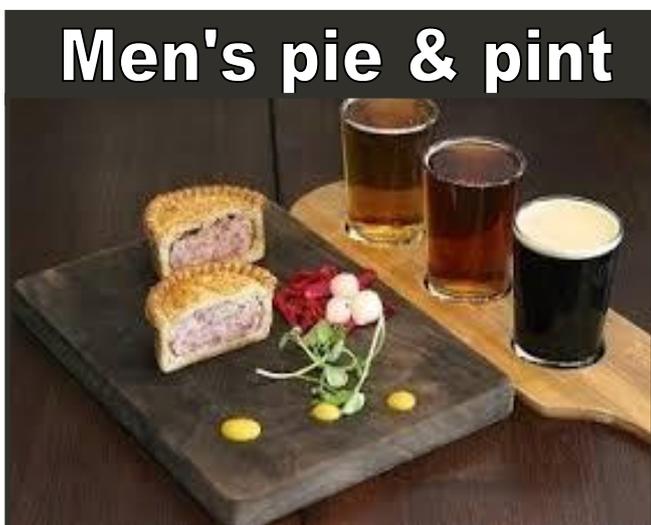
This month come and praise God together, and then

pray in particular for the police force and
crime prevention in Northampton.

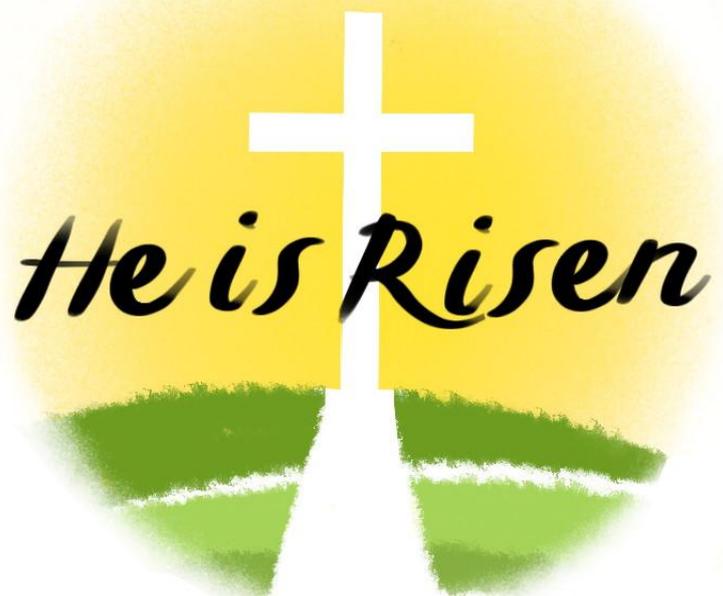
For further information please contact:

Contact: Rev Paul Lavender Email:

Paul@mountpleasantchurch.com



Thursday 4th April
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

LAUGHTER ACTIVITIES SHARE COFFEE WEDNESDAYS

FUN Meet New Friends

VISITING SPEAKERS GAMES CHATTER

TEA **FRIENDSHIP** GIGGLES

ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS

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

It all adds up to

Livability

Emmanuel is a learning disability friendly church
everyone welcome



**Emmanuel will be hosting
a performance of Romeo and Juliet
by the young people of
Silhouette Theatre Company
on April 3rd at 6pm (until 7.30pm)**

Please join us on that evening to support these fantastic young people and those who are teaching and training them.

For those who are not aware, Silhouette is a theatre company for children and young people from Northampton East which runs classes and performances from a base in Weston Favell Centre. We partnered with them last year on Remembrance and at Christmas.

Leigh, the director of the company, specifically asked if they could perform for Emmanuel to say thank you for the support that we have given them up to now.

This performance is part of a tour of local schools and community groups that the team are doing, all to give the young people important performance experience.

It'll be great. Do come!

Ladies Conference

(Know Your Bible group)

At Reynard Way Evangelical Church
Thursday 25th April, 10.00am - 2.30pm.
(Tea/coffee served from 10.00am.)
Carol Dadswell is speaking on
"God our Restorer".

No need to pre-register and there's no charge but please bring a packed lunch.
A free will offering will be taken.

Contacts: Margaret 01604 400382
or Elaine 01604 706529

www.knowyourbible.org.uk

 **Central Baptist Association**
walking together in ministry & mission
www.centralba.org.uk

ASSEMBLY
Including AGM

**WHO DO
YOU SAY
I AM?**

keynote address
Beth Allison-Glenny

Sat June 15th 2019

10am - 3.30pm Whaddon Way Church
Whaddon Way Church, West End of Ayr, Milton Keynes, MK13 2JZ



**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**

*Standard network charges apply.



**Women & Wine
Thursday 25th April
7pm
@ The Quays
Billing Aquadrome
For more info, contact
Jo on 07841 578746**

The Ministry Team

Revd Phil Snelson 401540 philip.snelson@methodist.org.uk
 Revd Haydon Spenceley 244391 haydon.spenceley@emmanuelgroup.org.uk
 Revd Douglas Spenceley 402150
 Revd Stuart Jenkins 402150

Emmanuel Group Office - 01604 402150

Administrator Linda Withers Linda.withers@emmanuelgroup.org.uk
 Community Care co-ordinator Paul Foster 402150 (church office)
 Coffee Shop Manager Terry-Ann Fleck 402150 (church office)
 Safeguarding co-ordinator Kristin Hatherly 402150

B.E.R.T Editor Liz Bateman liz@lizzywhizz.biz

Weekly News-sheets

Emmanuel Jasmyne Price 07747 052 679 jasmyne.price@gmail.com
 Boothville Mary Langley 01604 644688 mary.langley123@btinternet.com

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 April 2019

Date	Emmanuel 10:30am	Boothville 10:30am	Rectory Farm 10:30am	YOUTH GROUPS
Sunday 7th	Communion Haydon Spenceley	Morning Worship David Bell	Family Worship Phil Snelson	<u>Rectory Farm</u> Praise & Prayer <hr/> <u>Emmanuel</u> Own Group
Sunday 14th	ipraise Phil Snelson & Ken Clarke	Communion Doug Spenceley	Communion Haydon Spenceley	<u>Rectory Farm</u> Own Group <hr/> <u>Emmanuel ipraise</u>
GOOD FRIDAY 19th	NO SERVICE	Haydon Spenceley & James O'Sullivan	NO SERVICE	<u>Rectory Farm ?</u> <hr/> <u>Emmanuel ?</u>
Sunday 21st	Communion & Baptisms Phil Snelson & Stuart Jenkins	Communion Chris Pearson	Communion Haydon Spenceley & Doug Spenceley	<u>Rectory Farm</u> & <u>Emmanuel</u> at McDonalds
Sunday 28th	Café church Peter Angus & Ken Clarke	Morning Worshio Kristin Hatherly & James O'Sullivan	Communion Doug Spenceley	YOUTH SERVICE 7 - 9pm @ emmanuel

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