

B E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & RECTORY FARM TIMES

Friends,

As I write, the spring bulbs and flowers are filling the gardens with a huge array of colour. Lift your eyes from the ground and you see the great splash of pink of cherry blossom, the white of the hawthorn and the regal splendour of the magnolia. Out for a walk the other day, Hilary pointed excitedly to the catkins in the trees. It's a simple pleasure, but it draws us into awe and wonder at God's meticulous creation.

Perhaps you might find it a bit strange that I start this letter in this way. You might have expected a long catalogue of woes about our current situation. I don't, and can't, ignore the anxiety, the worries and the questions. I'm just like everyone else in this. But there is one thing that I can do. And that is to point us to 'the beyond'.

You see, out of every apparent doom and gloom there is always something positive. Yes, Spring is here. Life is going on. If we spend too much time looking at the ground trying to pick our way through the problems, we fail to look up and see all the glories around us.

As a minister, I get lots of emails and tweets from all sorts of Christians and Christian organisations. Just occasionally something jumps out of the page at me as worth reflecting on. This morning was just such an occasion. A tweet came up with a quote from the great A W Tozer. It went like this: *'While it looks like things are out of control, behind the scenes there is a God who has not surrendered His authority.'* We have a God who is always there to pick us up, to dust us down and push us back out into Life. Let's not forget that.

At this time of year, we usually look with great anticipation to following in Jesus' footsteps into Jerusalem, the elated crowds, waving of palm leaves and shouts of Hosanna! This Easter time is going to be very different. As I write, we have only just started the change of lifestyle that is required for us to combat Coronavirus. This will probably prevent us from reflecting together on Good Friday at the Cross and celebrating with great joy Jesus' Resurrection from the Tomb on Easter Day. However, we can all set aside time for personal worship and prayer wherever we are. We just need to remember: the burst of colour that comes with the spring really does signal new life, new growth, changing from the old to the new. *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past",* the prophet Isaiah says to Israel's people. *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland, ..."* (Isaiah 43.18-19)

In the midst of all the worry and pain, Easter brings a loud proclamation. Whether or not we celebrate together in church on Easter Day, the fact remains: Jesus rose from the dead, just as He promised. The old order of things has gone, the new has begun. God's new Kingdom reigns, blossoming and spreading. The Cross is empty, the Tomb is empty. Coronavirus won't be the last 'crisis', but the new reign of God has begun. And God wins.



What does this mean for our society? Well, for a start, our focus is changing for the good. The plight of the elderly, the frail, the housebound, those in need of care and support, the urgent needs of the Health Service, the self-isolating, those who already have so long been apparently ignored on the fringes of being able to make ends meet for themselves and their families are now being thrust into centre stage. And society is rallying around them. We are truly becoming 'good neighbours', Good Samaritans in our community.

Continue to do this. Keep looking round the neighbourhood and spotting those who might need a welcome contact by phone. Who do you know who might welcome someone doing a bit of shopping for them? It's always good to know that someone cares.

We may not be able to see or understand where God is at the moment in our current world situation, but have no doubt: He is there; He hasn't caused the situation we are in, but He's there. Believe it or not, he is in control -still, and for ever.

Matthew's Gospel tells of a so-called expert in Jewish law coming to Jesus to try and trap him so he asks what the greatest commandment of all is. Jesus simply quotes the law back at him and adds a comment: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

So, that's what we do. Oh yes, and PRAY, and keep on praying. There are lots of resources available to help. You might like to go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources> for a few ideas.

Happy Easter! Keep yourself safe and healthy, and look after your neighbours, whoever they may be. And keep on praying.

God bless you all as we work together to stay strong and hopeful.

Doug

Emmanuel Group Prayer and Praise Hub

So what is this all about?

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 2 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 or prayer@emmprayer.co.uk

What happens to my requests?

Requests will 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:

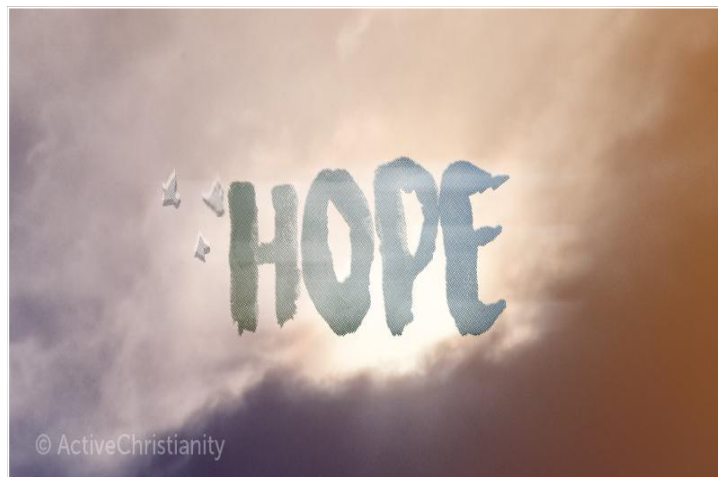
- On our website in our Prayers and Praise section
- On the Emmanuel Group of Churches Facebook and Twitter pages
- During acts of worship or video updates we share online
- In our Group Weekly Prayer Sheet which is sent to the congregation by email

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

Why, my soul,
Are you so downcast?
Why so disturbed
Within me?

**Put your hope
in God**

- psalm 42:5



A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

**Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19
in the UK and across the world.
May they feel your healing touch.
We pray too for all those who mourn the loss
of loved ones.
May they feel your comfort and compassion.
And we pray for who reach out to each and
every person who has died
as a result of contracting the disease.**

**Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days
of uncertainty and distress.**

**This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.**

**Archbishop Michael Jackson Dublin & Glendalough
(adapted)**

David Bell's...

Boothville Diary



As I am writing this whilst I am confined to barracks. My reflection for the diary is based on a statement I made as part of my Lay Minister Report for the year. I have come to understand the importance of the **Church in the Community** and also **the Community in the Church**.

On the second week of March I attended our monthly Service at the Leys and Southfields Residential Homes., with Peter and Sheila Angus. This proved to be the last week and the last days that visitors were being allowed into the home due to the corona virus outbreak.

Please pray for the family members who usually visit, and those in the homes who crave contact.

Pray also for the members of staff who maintain a positive, loving attitude. A lesson to us all.

A staff member put this plaque in the window at the Leys which frames a view of the gardens; God's creation. It gave me hope for the those living and working in the home.

It reminds us all how important it is for us all to make the most of Every day...

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."Matthew 6:34



In January Boothville Community Church had our Annual Quiz Night, organised by Mary Langley.

Always a very popular event; this year was no exception. We had a full house with teams representing groups that use the Community Centre, the church and members of the local community. It was a hotly contested session with a great sense of fun and fellowship. We had a fabulous buffet during the break (thanks to Mary again). It was a very enjoyable evening which also raised money for the upkeep of Boothville Village Hall.



Quiz night at Boothville Village Hall



David Worley—The Quiz Master

David Worley was our Quiz Master once again. The varied choice of questions challenged us all.

Over the past years of the quiz I find that I am more challenged by my loss of memory, or we would have won!

- As Victor Meldrew said:

'I don't believe it..'



Community Care Update – April and May

Unfortunately, like so many other things, including work and school! All of our activities have been cancelled for an indefinite period.

Let's hope and pray that this crisis will soon come to an end for everyone. Keep safe,

Paul

Hand-washing technique with soap and water



You can contact me at the church office
402150 or email:
paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk

Covid-19 - Leading in Love

I was inspired to put my faith into action last weekend by a news article about a lady from Cornwall called Becky Wass. She designed a card to give to neighbours offering to shop for those self-isolating. So my wife and I printed out our mobile numbers, washed our hands, then rang on our neighbours' door bells. Standing 2 meters back we offered our slip of paper to 'stick on the fridge just in case you need it'. Everyone took it and you could see that for some it was a little ray of light in a climate of fear and worry.

Could you do something to let the light shine?

If you want to use Becky's card go to:

bit.ly/viralkindness

or make your own.

Whatever you do, please
adhere to the latest
Government guidance.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **#ViralKindness**



Weston Favell Centre foodbank is now operating out of the shop in the centre.

We will continue to operate as long as we have supplies.

foodbank operates on

Mondays 10.00am - 1.00pm
and

Wednesdays 10.00 -1.00pm

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

The unit is open to receive donations on

Mon 10 - 4

Tues 10 - 4

Weds 10 - 4

Thurs closed

Fri 10 -3

Other drop off points for donations are: Waitrose at Kingsthorpe and Wootton

We always need donations of...

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
Toilet rolls
Squash - No added sugar
Fruit Juice
Rice

Thank you!



Ways to Give

We need your help

Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.

We couldn't do what we do without your support.

Thank you

No-one knows how long the current emergency will last but however long it lasts people still need to be fed. If you normally give financially to foodbank or have done so since the present crisis began or if you have donated food, thank you for your support.

Some 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

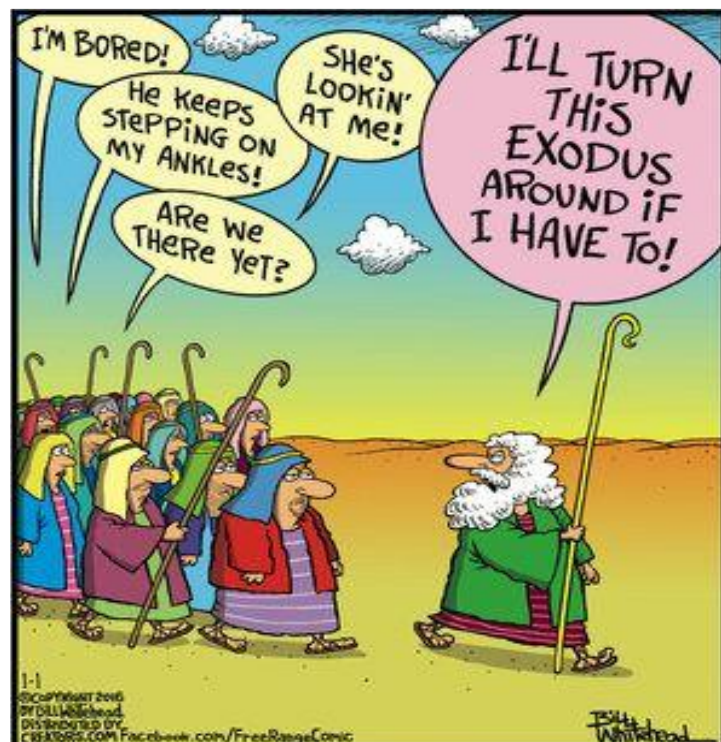
NATWEST

Sort code: 60-15-55

Acc no: 73955787

Alternatively, you can download a standing order mandate from the Emmanuel Church/foodbank website: www.emmgrouip.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/>



Youth

So, this is our new normal for a while and hopefully you are all now aware that ALL youth groups and gatherings have been postponed until further notice BUT I just wanted to inform you of all that we are trying to set up as soon as possible.

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 your child has FB and they haven't already done so, they can add me on [Mell AT Emmgroup](#) and then I can add them 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

We also have a closed group called [Nxt Generation](#) they can join, where I will be posting links and videos from Soul Survivors youtube account. As parents, feel free to add my work FB for updates but please be aware, parents won't 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 will be a youth group chat called **prayer-hands** - set up for prayer requests only

I am also setting up a parent group chat on whatsapp. If you would like to be added, just let me know.

Instagram

Emmanuel Youth Northampton ([emm_youth](#))
this is open to ALL

GODSQUAD

This will hopefully continue of sorts over whatsapp but not quite sure how yet.
Hopefully it will be sorted by the time you read this.

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

MEL 😊

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a home

delivery service

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or email:

coffee.shop@emmanuelgroup.org.uk

NORTHAMPTON MUTUAL AID (on Facebook)

An army of people have joined coronavirus Mutual Aid online groups to deliver goods to those unable to leave home in their areas. Within days of the first Facebook page launching in south London, a UK-wide network of organisations has now formed - among them is **Northampton's Facebook group, which has 9,016 members.** There are local groups already active in Northampton. If you live in one of these areas please contact the groups directly with your offers or needs.

Great Billing & Little Billing

Covid-19 community support
ae.bruchez@mail.com

Headlands Co-ordinator Helping Hands

dippy1@live.co.uk

Links View Mutual Aid

mutualaidlinksview@outlook.com

Spinney Hill/Parklands/Eastfield

Covid 19 support
charleeandjacob@hotmail.co.uk

Boothville & Lake View

Northampton Self Isolation Support

Eastern District, Northampton

Covid-19 Isolation Support

East Northants COVID-19 Mutual Aid

eastnorthantscovid19aid@gmail.com

Moulton

info@moultonparishcouncil.org.uk

Westone Covid-19 community support

There are also lots of people in groups ready to help others in different parts of town:

<https://northamptonmutualaid.group/>

WESTON FAVELL CENTRE

foodbank



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.

For further information, contact Anne Woodley, Food Bank Manager at: foodbank@emmanuelgroup.org.uk

We always need donations of...

Tinned Fruit, Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fish

Pasta/Curry Sauce, Salt
Coffee - small and family jars
Tea
Granulated Sugar
UHT milk - All types
Oil - Small and large bottles
Men's Toiletries,
Toilet rolls
Squash - No added sugar
Fruit Juice
Rice

Thank you!

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Goodbye Phil & Becky

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Phil & Becky Snelson on February 23rd. They have been part of our Emmanuel family for the past twelve years. Phil, of course, in his role of Free Church Minister. They are pictured here receiving gifts during their final service with us.

Phil and Becky's welcome service was held on 1st September 2008 at Emmanuel. They arrived here with Katie and Daniel, who were both still at school in those days. Rachel was in Uganda at the time and arrived in Northampton a few weeks later. We have shared good and not so good times together, as families do, and have been grateful recipients of Phil's quiet love and generosity. Becky has been a faithful and creative member of the church and the junior church staff at Emmanuel. She is also famous throughout the whole group for her magnificent baking skills. One of the reasons that Café church is our most attended service?? As you can see from the photo, the Snelson family has blossomed while they have been here! Hopefully we will see Phil occasionally as he will be working in the Northampton Methodist Circuit. We will miss you Phil and Becky but hope to see you here in the future. X X



(left) It takes a lot of concentration to cut a cake.

(below) The Snelson Family complete with Grandchildren.



Emmanuel; God is with us

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DEADLINE

for items for the
June/July

EDITION

of

B.E.R.T

Friday
22nd
MAY

**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

NEW website:

www.emmgroupp.org.uk



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Europe & N.America	1st page	2.00
	Following page/s	1.00
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Receiving:

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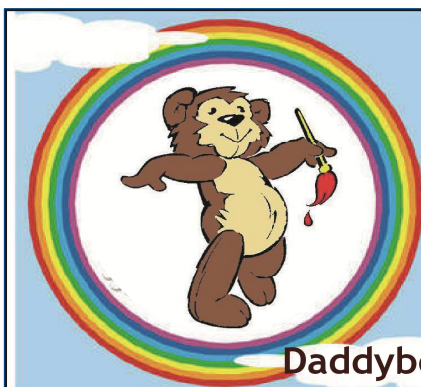
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REGULAR GIVING

*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

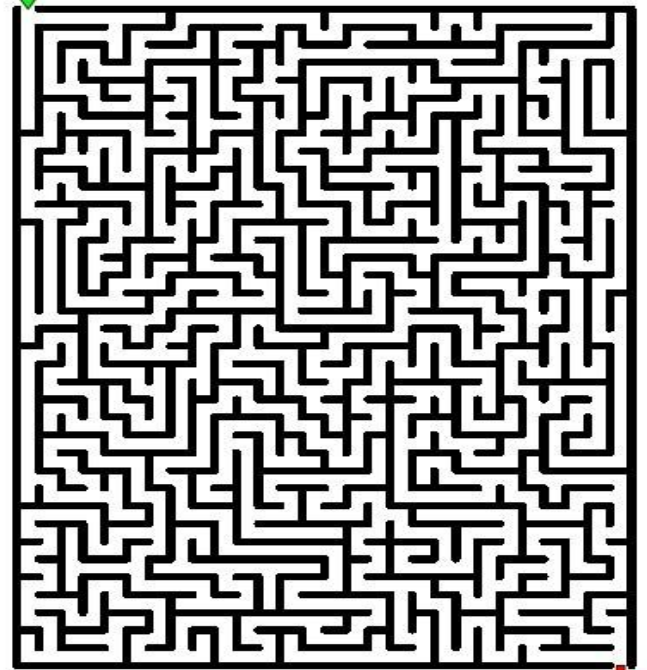
daddybear1973@yahoo.com

Daddybear Face Painting

stuff 4 kids 2 do

Amazing!

w	p	s	e	r	v	a	n	t	d	c	f
a	a	k	x	p	x	s	e	n	x	j	r
s	s	t	a	e	l	e	a	s	t	e	d
h	s	o	m	t	f	t	s	g	t	a	i
k	o	w	p	e	s	e	n	a	o	f	s
g	v	e	l	r	l	i	l	r	g	f	c
c	e	l	e	b	r	a	t	i	n	g	i
i	r	d	t	e	a	c	h	e	r	j	p
m	n	y	k	t	s	p	e	c	i	a	l
u	b	c	j	e	s	u	s	e	r	v	e
d	i	m	p	o	r	t	a	n	t	p	s
b	o	w	l	r	o	b	e	b	a	t	h



Can you find your way through the maze? you will need a pen or pencil

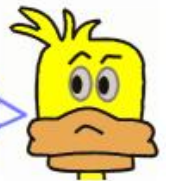
special	celebrating	Peter
mud	feet	later
example	servant	robe
teacher	serve	disciples
Passover	Jesus	bath
bless	important	wash
bickering	least	towel
road	bowl	understand

www.ducksters.com

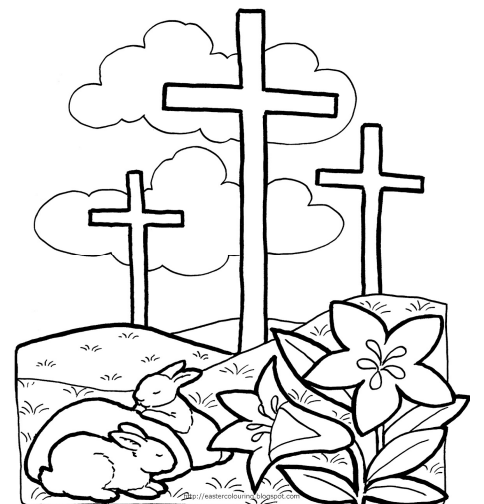
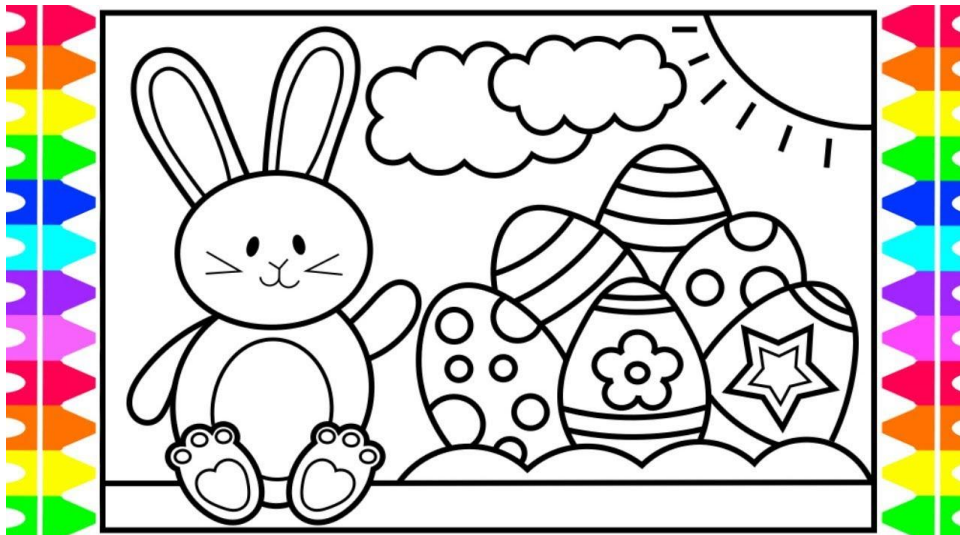
If I had 6 oranges in one hand and 7 apples in the other, what would I have?



Big hands!



See if you can find all of the words in the grid.
Which Bible story do you think it is?
Can you find the story in the Bible?



Bear Grylls teams up with Scouts for indoor survival activities. Great Indoor initiative offers weekly video feeds to survive extended time with family



A week stuck at home for a family can be as tough as a week in the mountains,' said Bear Grylls.

He's better known for his derring-do in more adventurous surroundings but Bear Grylls has now turned his attention to an altogether different challenge – Covid-19.

The world's best known survival expert is launching a package of 100 indoor activities to keep families "busy, focused and cheerful" and ward off cabin fever during the Coronavirus lockdown.

After the closure of schools millions of families will be cooped up indefinitely and Grylls, the chief scout, is warning that without a plan, "a week stuck at home for a family can be as tough as a week in the mountains".

Grylls, a former soldier, is launching the Great Indoors initiative with the Scout movement, which is also planning to provide live weekly video feeds explaining some of the activities over Facebook. They will be fronted by Grylls and scout ambassadors, including the TV naturalist Steve Backshall and Helen Glover, the double Olympic rowing champion.

The activities include making lolly-stick catapults, becoming a "black-out poet", investigating local heraldry, tackling origami and designing and making hot-air balloons. All the activities can be carried out in the house or garden. They have been drawn from a back catalogue of activities devised over the years by scout leaders across the country.

"Young people have such huge energy and that needs channelling in a positive way," said Grylls. "Whether you're climbing Everest, or just trying to make it through to bedtime, a little planning and positive spirit will make all the difference. It's not often you'll find me talking about the great indoors – but this is the exception. Try them out, look after each other and, most of all, make this challenging time a safe and positive time."

www.mykidstime.com

50 EGGstra Fun Easter Activities for Kids

Games, Arts
& Crafts,
Cooking,

Competitions and more...

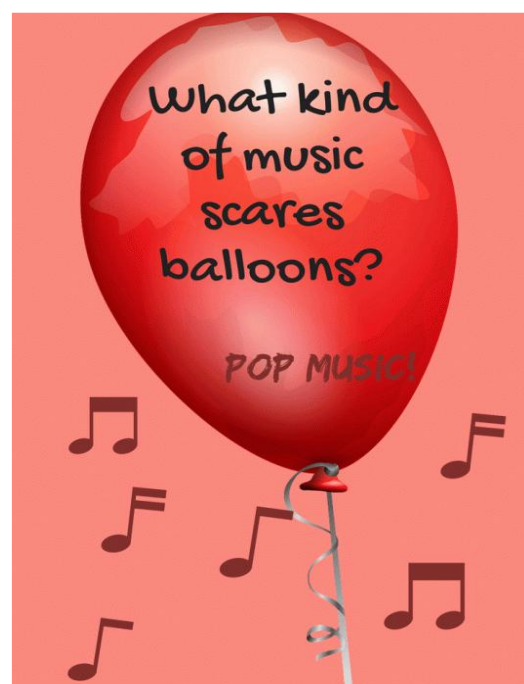


Educational, inspirational and hugely enjoyable, the range of ideas you'll find at **MyKidsTime** offer something for everyone and ensure there'll never be a dull day or an interminable summer break.

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, places to visit, competitions, entertainment and tech news, exclusive offers and more!

Download it now to check it out.



Waiting to see his image

A verse in the Old Testament book of Malachi puzzled some women in their Bible Study. It says, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver..." The members wondered what the statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at a future meeting. She called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, simply her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames were hottest, to burn away all the impurities.

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man confirmed he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was fascinated and she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - it's when I see my image in it."

Dear God,

Thank You that we get to be a part of Your global Church at this moment. Thank You for the opportunity to spread Your love and hope to a world living in darkness and despair.

Your Word says that if *Your* people humble themselves, turn away from wickedness, and call on Your name, that You *will* answer them and heal their land. So we, Your people, are asking Your forgiveness for the times we've chosen not to love the people You put in front of us.

Allow this season to strengthen Your Church and to remind us of how much You love this hurting world. Please heal our land and use us to meet the needs of others. Grow our faith as You grow Your global Church. Come, Lord Jesus, and do what only You can do.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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 - 07941 124159
Sheila Angus mailme5@btinternet.com - 07779 681695





Image—British Ironworks Centre

CORONAVIRUS

AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE CURRENT
GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS WILL STILL BE
IN FORCE IN JUNE, SO THIS EVENT
MAY NOT HAPPEN AT THIS TIME

C2C support any individual at any stage of the Criminal Justice System by inspiring and motivating them to take personal responsibility for their behaviour, in order to reduce re-offending.

This has a huge impact on their lives, their children, wider families & local communities creating a safer, stronger Northamptonshire.

The Knife Angel

The Knife Angel Is Coming to Northampton

The "National Monument Against Violence and Aggression," more commonly known as the "Knife Angel," C2C has booked it to come to Northampton for the month of June 2020. The Knife Angel will be used as a focal point for a campaign to reduce violence in the county, to support the hard work done by Northamptonshire Police and its Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV).

The Knife Angel stands 27 feet (8 metres) tall and is made of over 100,000 knives, confiscated by 43 Police Forces across the country.

Unveiled in 2017, the angel has visited several towns around the country in a campaign to reduce knife crime and violence, and raise awareness of the impact on victims and their friends and families. Mr Bradley, the creator, describes it as "a memorial to those whose lives have been affected by knife crime".

Information about its tour is available in this website:
<https://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/index.php/show-areas/the-knife-angel-official/the-knife-angel-uk-tour>

C2C Social Action will use the angelic visitation to Northamptonshire to work alongside a range of organisations in an intensive youth activity programme, in partnership with Northamptonshire Police, the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and councils, schools, clubs and churches from around the county. The Knife Angel will be located in the plaza at the front of All Saints Church in Northampton town centre, with the kind support of Father Oliver Coss and of Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager. A range of youth activities will take place in the Guildhall with the support of Northampton Borough Council's Community Safety Team.

For more information or to support this project please see our website or email knifeangel@c2csocialaction.com

And who do we have here accepting the Community Award Organisation of the year from Prue Leith on behalf of C2C? - our own, Angie Kennedy and Julie Parsons (Emmanuel and foodbank fundraiser)

Awesome Achievements

Amazing recognition for the fantastic work of C2C. Two national Awards and a commendation.



“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring” . Proverbs 27:1:

A few weeks ago, people over 70 were asked to 'self-isolate'. At first I thought.. well that won't be too bad. I spend a lot of time on my own at home anyway, so it won't be that difficult for me.

The day after I had started to self-isolate, my son and little great granddaughter, Holly popped in to see me. Instead of the usual welcoming cuddles and kisses, they washed their hands as they entered the house before coming through to the lounge where I was sitting in my usual place.

My son moved a chair for Holly so that she could sit on the other side of the room to me. He then sat on the other sofa near to her and as far away from me as he could. We sat chatting and laughing as usual but it was all very strange.

When the time came for them to leave we made Holly laugh as we invented silly actions for 'air' hugging and kissing. As I waved them off from the front door, I laughed and blew kisses to her, to hide the tears that came with the realisation of what self isolation was really going to mean. No more visitors; no more swimming on Mondays; no more shopping trips; no more choir; no more family meals out on Sundays, or trips to the cinema; no more meetings; no more house group; no more church.

And, apart from the things that I do regularly, there were also things that I had planned to do... A wedding in April, Birthdays, Bar-b-ques, Holidays, people I was hoping to see. I can't rely no longer on any of those things happening..

I don't know how long this will go on for, or what to expect. And the information and response from our government and other leaders from all around the world, merely underlines that fact that no-one actually knows how long this will go on or what the future holds.

I searched my Bible for appropriate verses to encourage myself and came across this:

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring". Proverbs 27:1:

It set me thinking about how, when we make plans for what we want to do or where we want to go, we confidently expect those plans to come to fruition. We think that we know what is going to happen on a certain date in the future. We have made our plans and should anything happen to scupper them, we have the cheek to get upset about it!

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring".

None of us knows what the future may hold for any of us. We shouldn't take anything for granted. As James puts it: *"we ought to say; If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this and that"*. James 4:15 How often, I wonder, do we really involve God in our plans?

I hardly need to say that I very much hope and pray that the current situation will soon be over and the outcome will not be as far reaching or devastating as we fear. Our main focus in the meantime, must be for the sick, the vulnerable, and the children.

At the same time, this is an opportunity to demonstrate, by our behaviour and loving care for others; the strength, joy and peace that knowing Jesus brings. In some ways it is perhaps a good thing to be reminded that we are not in control of everything; That 'Jesus is Lord'. A time to 'surrender all' and to 'lean on the everlasting arms of God'.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea". Psalm 46: 1-2



GROUP HOLIDAY 2020

To North Wales
Chatsworth House Hotel
Llandudno

Sat June 6th to Sat 13th June 2020

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 Lincolnshire on Wednesday May 20th
the cost is £20.00 original gardens plus several walled enclosures, glass houses fine trees, turf maze, yew tunnel and much more.

Gloucester/ Warwick steam railway on Saturday June 27th
cost is £32.00 Adults £31.50 OAPs visiting Toddington station to catch a steam train at 10.30am a shop, engine sheds and cafe a most enjoyable journey.

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 information or to book with a deposit of
£5.00pp**

When Darkness Comes

When darkness comes upon our lives;
And Death's dark shadow clouds our eyes
Our Lord helps us, when news is grim,
To fear not, and believe in Him.

Yet sometimes, though we try to pray
It seems He tarries on the way,
Though faith grows weak, and vision dim,
Still fear not, and believe in Him.

For He, like us, wept tears of woe;
He cried 'My God' here are you now?'
We only tread where He has been -
So fear not, and believe in Him.

In grief, in tears, or in despair,
Recall that Jesus is still there.
O strive not to find faith within,
But fear not, and believe in Him.

He's Lord of Lord, and King of Kings
He is the Ruler of all things -
He's triumphed over death and sin,
We'll fear not, and believe in Him.

By Nigel Beeton

Supplied by David Bell (Boothville)



Information regarding Weston Favell Shopping Centre

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Notice Following Government Announcement on 23 March

In line with Government guidance on 23 March calling for an escalation of Coronavirus social distancing measures, Weston Favell Shopping centre is now closed for all retailers except those providing essential goods and services – food & grocery, pharmacies, banks and post offices.

Please check retailers' social media channels and websites for news on individual store closures or opening times. The situation is evolving quickly so please be aware that published opening hours may vary among retailers and change at short notice.

We are working hard to ensure that we can continue to provide a level of service to support retailers who are continuing to trade and serving their communities at this time.

We would like to thank our retailers who are all working extremely hard in very challenging and unprecedented circumstances to ensure visitors are able to access goods and services. We would appreciate your support in respecting Government's advice to adhere to social distancing.

Changes at Weston Favell Shopping Centre:

Tesco

opening hours have changed as follows;

Monday – Saturday: 06:00 – 22:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 16:00

[Tesco will open an hour earlier for NHS workers to shop on Sundays. ID must be presented.](#)

Elderly & Vulnerable customers

To ensure more vulnerable and elderly customers can shop in-store, they will prioritise [one hour every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning between 9-10am](#) and ask that you respect this.

To ensure more people have access to everyday essentials, [there is a storewide restriction of only 3 items per customer on every product line](#). Multi-buy promotions have been removed.

In order to allow To focus on stocking shelves, provide essential groceries and to avoid waste, all meat, fish, deli counters and salad bars are closed.

Nationwide

Mon – Fri: 10am-2pm

Saturday: 9am-12pm

Sunday: closed

Quiet hour for vulnerable members: 08:00 – 09:00 Mon-Fri
(Open to the general public as normal after 09:00)

Boots

Limited to 5 customers in the pharmacy at one time
Open 10-4

Andrews Fish and Chip Emporium

Seating area closed – [takeaway only](#)

Baguettes, Bakes and Cakes

Seating area closed – [takeaway only](#)

Hays Travel

Operating a 'closed-door policy' however, phones will be manned and you will be taken care of.

Natwest

Monday – Friday: 10-3

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

TSB

Monday – Friday: 10 - 4 (closed for lunch 12.30 - 1.30)

Sunday: Closed

Savers

Monday – Saturday: 10-5

Sunday: Closed

Holland & Barrett

Wed – Sun - 10-2

Mon – Sun - 10-4

Open as usual:

Barclays

Going Spare

Favell Farm Foods

Wilko

Poundland

Paper News

Stores that are currently closed

Artifact Tattoo

Betfred

Better Brows

Bonmarche

Burton

Burger King

Card Factory

CC's hair salon

CEX

Costa Coffee

Dorothy Perkins

EE

Elliot Reeve

Emmanuel Church Coffee Shop

Fabric Care

Fitness Inc

Flowers Just for You

Frango Grill

Gallones

Game

Greggs

H Samuel

Jackson Grundy

Jenny's

Ladbrokes

Library

Mobile Tech

More than Mobility

Nails 2005

O2

O'Riordan Bond

Peacocks

Pure Gym

Scissors and Razors

Shoe Zone

Socialites

Subway

Supercuts

Superior Services

The Fragrance Shop

The Lounge

The Works

Three Store

Timpson's

Wallis

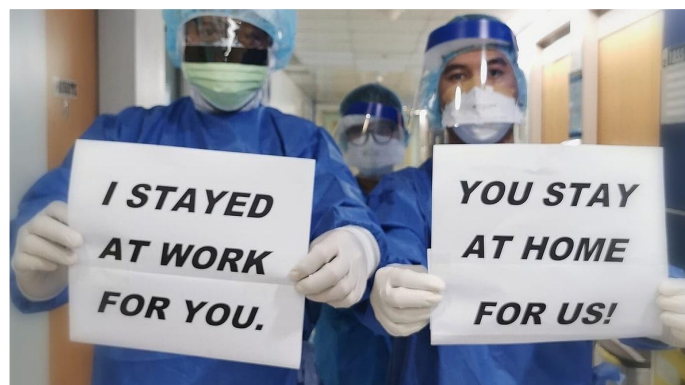
Wendys Sweet Shop

Weston Favell Jewellers

WH Smith

William Hill

Yours



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 doug.spenceley@gmail.com
 Revd Stuart Jenkins 402150 stuartpauljenkins@gmail.com
 Revd Chris Pearson 402150 c.pearson1@homecall.co.uk

Emmanuel Group Office - 01604 402150

Administrator Linda Withers Linda.withers@emmanuelgroup.org.uk
 Community Care co-ordinator Paul Foster paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk
 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

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

Coronavirus

what we are doing during this crisis

On our website: www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk

During the period in which many people are at home and/or in isolation we want to continue to serve the community. We will be putting up daily posts reflecting on Bible readings which you can find on the [Bible Reflections page](#) and hope you find them helpful.

On Sundays we will also be offering you service plans, songs to listen to, 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. So if you have a question, or would like to have a conversation with 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

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 will be happening on Facebook and Instagram. (see page 7 of BERT)

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/emmanuel-group/>

which has the option for single or regular gifts.

Similarly, the Foodbank <https://localgiving.org/charity/weston-favell-centre-foodbank/>

Cafe Emm would also benefit from any support you might be able to give.

**Be strong and courageous for the Lord will
 be with you wherever you go**

Joshua 1:9

**All services, meetings and gatherings
in April & May 2020 have been cancelled
throughout the Emmanuel Group
due to the corona virus outbreak**

Please visit our website for up to date information
www.emmggroup.org.uk

Join us every

Sunday at 10.30am

for a Live Streamed Service at

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEmmanuelGroupOfChurches>

**You can also find reflections and
'thoughts for the day'
at**

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

We hope you will find these helpful

