

B E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & RECTORY FARM LINES



Romans 15: 13 'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit'

What a year it has been! There have been some tough times and some really difficult situations to deal with, but there have also been many times of rejoicing, where we have been blessed by others or we have been a blessing to others. God has been faithful and enabled us as a church to be a place of help and support, a place of encouragement and belonging. God's grace has been evident as we've looked to Him for guidance and we acknowledge that we thank and praise Him because He always keeps his promises. Psalm 36: 7 reminds us that God's unfailing love is precious and there is a promise wrapped up in this verse that say we can find shelter in the shadow of His wings. What a great place to be, sheltering in the shadow of the Almighty.

We are currently in the second lockdown due to the pandemic and I have heard the

question and I'm sure you have too, 'Where is God in all of this?' That question is being asked not just by those who are followers of Christ, but many who are not. They are looking for answers and in doing so perhaps acknowledging that God exists.

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Here are some areas that we have seen God moving, particularly over the last year:

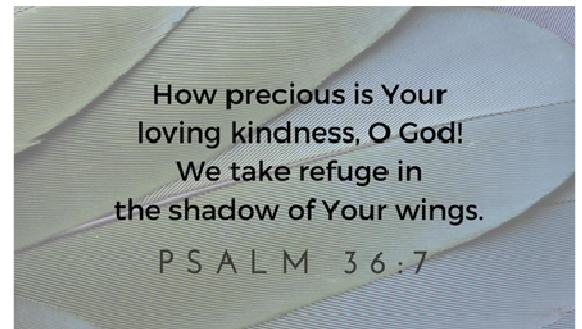
- God is moving as we see the Gospel spreading. Hallelujah!
- God is moving by strengthening our faith
- God is moving by reminding us that we don't need to be ruled by our agendas and we can appreciate spending more time in His presence
- God is moving by showing us our need for forgiveness
- God is moving by strengthening families and the time they spend together
- God is moving through the kindness of others
- God is moving by imparting his peace into us. Knowing the Father makes all the difference.
- God is moving by drawing us closer as a body of his people

...and God will continue to move in YOUR SITUATION

We have a lot to be thankful for and as the title says – **Look Back**.....look back and see how far God has brought us, look back and see the faithfulness of God, look back and see His provision and guidance, but let us **Focus Forward**. Focus at what God is going to do in the future, focus at those He will draw to himself, focus on the ways in which we can serve our communities better, focus on meeting people where they are and introducing them to the Father. Ultimately our Focus is on God and as we do so and enter a New Year, we do so with confidence, not in ourselves, but in the one who holds everything in His hands.

Romans 15: 13 'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit'

Stay blessed, Love Precious
Reader @ Emmanuel Group of Churches



Café Emm



Pop in and see us at Emmanuel Church
in
The Weston Favell Shopping Centre
You will be very welcome

We certainly have not been idle over the last few months in Café Emm. We have been continuing to supply free meals to those who are shielding in Northampton East. Our numbers dropped slightly in September when the children returned to school and so enabled some of our families to return to work. However, at present we are still producing and delivering over 80 meals each week. We express our thanks to all those who help in any way with this work, it is greatly appreciated. If you live in the postal districts of NN3 5, 8, or 9 and know of a neighbour near you who would benefit from this service please get in touch with Maureen Timms 01604 404581.

After much hard work and planning we finally managed to open the coffee shop to the public on 9th September. We have been opening on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 – 2.00. This started off very slowly but over the weeks custom had begun to

build up quite well. The menu has been modified a little and each Thursday we served a two-course dinner.

In October we then started opening on Tuesdays as well, from 12.00 – 2.00 to serve lunches.

We are really grateful to those church members who supported us by coming for lunch on Thursdays it was a real joy to see so many familiar faces.

We also served free hot children's meals during half term. Unfortunately opening came to a halt on 5th November as we went



Sue, quite small for big pots!

into the current lockdown.

We are hoping and praying that we will be able to open our doors again on Thursday 3rd December.

Since January Café Emm has been very ably managed by Julie Hollingsworth, who joined us to cover the maternity leave of Terry Ann. Very sadly we shall be saying goodbye to Julie on Friday 18th December. Julie has been a real driving force and tower of strength in helping us to achieve so much over this period and she will be very sadly missed. We do thank her for all her hard work.

Café Emm will be closed over the Christmas Holidays from Friday 18th December at 2.00pm.

We will open on Monday 4th January when we will welcome back Terry Ann. Don't worry we are making provision for our delivery customers to receive supplies so they do not go hungry over the festive season.

We do hope you will be able to come back to Café Emm very soon.

Maureen Timms
- Café Emm Trustee.



Daphne a very loyal customer who celebrated her birthday with us.

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 - 07941 124159
preciousluke@emmgroupp.org.uk

Sheila Angus - 07779 681695
mailme5@btinternet.com



Pack a shoebox gift and share God's love

Thank you for considering giving hope and joy to a child this year. In the midst of a global pandemic, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down and the need is greater than ever before. By sending a shoebox gift with Operation Christmas Child you'll be sharing God's love and showing a child they are special and thought of.

Find a Shoebox



Get an empty medium sized shoebox, and wrap the box and lid separately in colourful wrapping paper or order preprinted shoeboxes [online](#). Attach the appropriate [boy/girl label](#), marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age

category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox.



From **TORCH TRUST**

Sight Loss Friendly Church

We have signed up to Sight Loss Friendly Church, which is part of the Torch Trust. A Christian charity that helps people with sight loss and churches who want to be more welcoming and understanding to people who have sight loss. It gives access to a whole load of resources to help us become more aware of what we can do for people with sight loss. It's A really exciting opportunity. More can be found on their website below.

www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk



Fill with gifts

Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump.



Make a donation

A suggested donation of £5 is essential to cover project costs, including shipping, to enable a local church or group overseas to lead a safe, well-organised children's event where your shoebox will be given to a child in need.



Give online at [Follow Your Box](#) and you can print out a barcode and place it inside your shoebox on top of the contents. This will enable us to tell you which country your shoebox gets sent to.

Or you can enclose cash or cheque (to Samaritan's Purse) and place it in an envelope inside your shoebox on top of the contents. If you are packing multiple shoeboxes you can write a cheque for one combined donation.

Personalise & Pray

Personalise your shoebox by including a hand written note and a photograph of yourself, your group or your family. You may also like to pray for the child that will receive your gift.



Drop Off Your Shoebox

Place a rubber band around each closed shoebox and take it to a local Drop-off Location.

Your nearest Drop-off Location is:

Brixworth Community Church
16 Shelleycotes Road, Brixworth,
Northamptonshire, NN6 9NE
Monday 7th - Friday 11th: 9am - 3pm

Hurry... it's not too late!

Community Care Update – December/January

Most of our community projects remain cancelled due to the pandemic. But we all look forward to a time, hopefully not too far ahead, when we will be able to start things up again.

FISH - *Although our own Fish project has not been running due to covid, Another campaign has been successful!*

When schools closed in the first lockdown, families whose children qualify for free meals were provided with food vouchers. The government said this would not carry on during the summer holidays. However, they backed down after a campaign led by Marcus Rashford, who relied on free school meals in his childhood. The footballer then called for the voucher scheme to be extended until Easter 2021.

The idea was rejected by MPs, with the government saying it had already increased universal credit and provided £63m to local authorities to help people facing hardship. The government now says it will give local authorities £170m to provide food in the Christmas holidays, while schools will continue to provide the meals in term time.



Marcus Rashford helps out at a Manchester foodbank

Due to pressure from Marcus Rashford's campaign, the government have also promised that the 'Holiday Activities and Food programme' will run again in Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021

Marcus said the steps taken "will improve the lives of near to 1.7 million children in the UK over the next 12 months, and that can only be celebrated".

Deliveries and foodbank

I'm still working at the foodbank on Fridays when we deliver food to those who can't get out. The delivery team has decreased due to people going back to work, so if you would like to volunteer or would like to find out more about volunteering, please get in touch with us.



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

Money Support Centre

It's full steam ahead for the Money Support Centre. We are planning to launch it on 11th January!

I have been receiving training from Freedom to get us in a position to help people on that day, and have been having meetings with the team of volunteers, running through processes and carrying out role plays based on scenarios given to them.

I'm really excited that are finally launching after so many close calls, let's pray we are in a position to help those who come to us

Pastoral Care

I was licensed by the Bishop back in September via the mysteries of zoom. Please pray for me that I find new ways that I can use my pastoral care skills in our group and our community.

If you have a neighbour who lives alone, perhaps you could pop a Christmas card through their letter box or, if appropriate, knock on the door to let them know that someone is thinking about them.

I hope you all manage to have a good Christmas despite the covid restrictions.

Paul





**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
Wednesdays 10 - 1pm
Fridays 10 - 12pm.**

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

The Foodbank continues to be very busy. In October we fed 1229 people and in November, 1154. (For comparison, in January we were feeding around 450 people per month). We are now open three times a week for walk in, plus deliveries. The number of deliveries also keep going up. We are all working as hard as we can to ensure that people in need of the Foodbank are able to access it.

We have recently had a change of staff. Tracey Fogg (warehouse co-ordinator) has left, as she and her family are moving out of the area. Tracey did a great job of organising the warehouse and her wonderful team of volunteers when we moved to the shop in Weston Favell Centre. Thank you Tracey. We wish her well and hope they will settle quickly into their new home.

We needed to replace Tracey as soon as possible and so we have Appointed Richard Appleby as our interim warehouse co-ordinator. Richard brings with him a wealth of experience. He has taken up the reins and fitted in beautifully.

We have opened up an area downstairs in the unit which helps us with social distancing rules. We can now manage nine people in the shop unit and three to four people downstairs at the same time.

We have around 20 volunteers who help, in various ways, to keep the unit running smoothly. Social Distancing rules can sometimes make it difficult to find the right balance. We are looking for some extra help on Monday mornings when Foodbank is open, on Tuesday afternoons to help in the sorting and preparation of food parcels and on Fridays to help with deliveries.

The co-op have a Local Community Fund to give local causes a helping hand. We are one of their recipients from October 2020 - October 2021. So, if you shop at the Co-op and have a loyalty card you can nominate us as the cause you would like to support - and it won't cost you a penny! See page 7 of BERT for more information and to see a list of participating co-op stores in our area.

Thank you to all who have so generously donated or have volunteered to help in any way. Without your support we would be unable to continue.

Liz Bateman

Ways to Give

However long this emergency lasts, people will still need our help. If you have given financially to foodbank or donated food,

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

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

More and more people have asked if they can make a donation of money to the foodbank instead of food. This can be done 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 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/>

***Thank you
for your support!***



SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

As we all know, the festive season won't be the same this year but we want to share with you our Spreading Christmas Kindness page on our Voluntary Impact website.

<http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/spreading-christmas-kindness/>

Do please take a look and find out how you can spread some Christmas Kindness in Northampton this year.

Take care and stay safe.

Sarah Passam

YEAR 2020

THE LAST MONTH OF THE YEAR IS DECEMBER

THIS IS A FESTIVE SEASON WE CELEBRATE

TOGETHER

THE YEAR 2020 WILL BE A YEAR TO REMEMBER

WE HAVE ALL GONE THROUGH TOUGH TIME

SO, WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD FOR THIS YEAR

TO BE OVER

AND HOPE FOR THE NEXT YEAR TO BE BETTER

I KNOW THIS YEAR HAS BEEN CHALLENGING

I ENCOURAGE YOU NOT TO FEEL BITTER

BUT TRY TO HAVE A MINDSET THAT IS GREATER

BECAUSE THE NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE

MEMORY OF 2020

WILL BE REMEMBERED FOREVER.

KNOWING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL

AND ALL OF THESE WILL SOON BE OVER.

WRITTEN BY ANOI

Supplied by Haydon Spenceley



Not Just Waiting..

I love the 'not-yet' seasons of the year, Advent and Lent, when we look forward (sometimes patiently) to the celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Many of us can sympathise with the child who prayed "Lord, please give me patience and give it to me right now!"

Waiting is unpopular. We desperately try to guess which checkout queue is moving fastest. We begrudge the extra time spent waiting for late buses, trains or people. We loathe being told to "just hold" on the telephone.

Yet God's people are frequently encouraged to wait upon God, to look for the signs of his work in the world, to hope and pray and strive for this world to be more like his Kingdom. Indeed, Jesus himself was acclaimed as the Christ, "the one we've been waiting for", the fulfilment of centuries of longing.

In Lent and Advent, I always try to read at least one more reflective book, sometimes as part of a group. This year, please let me commend two in particular – *The Glorious Journey* by Liam Kelly, based upon the film *The Two Popes*, and *Frequencies of God*, written by one of our own clergy, Carys Walsh, based on the poems of R S Thomas.

Carys is Assistant Priest at Saints Peter and Paul, St Michael's and All Saints' Churches in Kettering, and our Curate Training Officer.

The *Church Times* has said her book "should become a classic" while Mark Oakley (Dean of St John's College, Cambridge) has commended it for being "infectious, poignant and inspiring". I agree with them both – it's a mind-enlarging and soul-refreshing read.

The book offers five weeks of daily poem-based reflections focused on waiting, accepting, journeying, birthing and seeing, which lead us through the anticipation of Advent to the celebration of Christmas.

In one helpful passage, Carys reflects that in waiting upon God "we may find ourselves discovering that there is a tightrope of desire and longing to be walked, which calls out from us a depth of yearning for God, and demands focus and surrender as we teeter between longing for God to speak and knowing that as we wait, we know God more".

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus first coming into our world, and meet him in our daily lives, may we all come to know God more this Advent.

With my prayers and best wishes for a holy and inspiring Advent.

+John
Bishop of Brixworth

Do you shop at the Co-op?

We're part of the Co-op Local Community Fund from October 2020—October 2021! When members present their loyalty card, the Co-op will give local causes a helping hand. **Go online:**
coop.co.uk/membership

Select us as your cause

Applies at these Co-op Stores:



Semilong
Far Cotton
Old Duston village
Upton
Moulton
Barry Rd/ Wellingborough Rd

Birchfield Rd
Bushland Rd
Bellinge
Rectory Farm
Spinney Hill

THANK YOU!



Christmas is just the icing on the cake!

Be honest, everyone, especially the kids, love a lump of icing off the Christmas cake! We get round to the fruity, nourishing stuff underneath, of course, but it is not so tempting. Such is modern Christmas, all sparkly good things with an admirable emphasis on children, family, and gifts.

It is not surprising that some of those on their own, childless, ill or bitter over tough times, will dismiss the occasion as trivial, irrelevant or 'just for kids', even querying God's existence. How easily we can miss the fruity, nourishing stuff underneath.

Oliver Cromwell even banned Christmas celebrations because they 'clouded the issue of Christian faith' – a faith which throughout the Bible is aimed squarely at mature adults rather than children. After all, the birth of Christ is only mentioned in two of the four gospels, while the rest of the New Testament ignores it completely! And Christmas was a baffling, fearful time for all the participants.

Joseph, Mary and the shepherds were afraid throughout all stages, even though each was being urged by angels 'Fear not'. Joseph, mature, respectable, yet frightened of wagging tongues over his relationship with a pregnant girl; Mary, amazed and puzzled by supernatural changes to her body and her life; The shepherds, ordinary, unschooled workers, drawn suddenly into remarkable affairs.

Despite that awfulness (ie full of awe), it was a magnificent, meaningful occasion. Almighty God was coming to earth to start the greatest stage of his relationship with humankind.

Little wonder, then, that in our modern, well-to-do society, we find it easier to concentrate just on the Santa-Clausy, party-party

top layer and forget the nourishing stuff underneath! But each of those fearful Nativity people in the Bible responded with positive trust in God, which brought them through to the 'icing on the cake.'

At its simplest level, Christmas is a story of light coming into darkness, of a pure, new baby bringing joy and hope into the murkiest places; it is a picture of new life changing real people for good.

The words of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' ring true today in all our local towns, too:

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven; No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Colin Reeves (ACE)

Christingle cake recipe

Christingle is likely to be a Covid casualty this year but there is no reason why we can't celebrate it at home.

As well as making a Christingle, some of you might like to make a cake! the Children's Society have a Christingle Cake recipe which you could use and share with others. It can be printed/downloaded at:



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xfb6300y9di3413/kate-bottley-and-the-christingle-cake-recipe.pdf?dl=0>



Cathedral choir recordings available for online Advent and Christmas services



Peterborough Cathedral Choir has made a series of live recordings for parishes to use for their online Advent and Christmas services.

The recordings are all in video format (except one), and the Cathedral Choir would be thrilled to be able to 'virtually' sing in churches dotted around our diocese!

The recordings (and the versions) available are:

Advent

'E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come' (Paul Manz)
Advent choir piece

Cathedral girl and boy choristers / Full choir

'Hills of the North, Rejoice'
Advent Carol

Cathedral boy choristers / Full choir

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'
Advent Carol
Girls and boys / Full choir

Christmas

'A Maiden Most Gentle'
(Andrew Carter)
Christmas (Marian choir piece)
Boys / Full choir

'Away in a Manger'
Christmas Carol
Cathedral girl choristers only

'Ding Dong Merrily on High'

'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'
Christmas Carol
Boys / Full choir

'In Dulci Jubilo' (JS Bach)
Christmas organ piece
Audio only

'In the Bleak Midwinter'
Christmas choir piece
Boys / Full choir

'O Come, All Ye Faithful'
Christmas Carol
Girls and boys / Full choir

'O Little Town of Bethlehem'
Christmas Carol
Girls / Choral scholars

'Once in Royal David's City'
Christmas Carol
Boys / Full choir

Silent Night'

'Christmas Carol
Cathedral boy choristers only

'What sweeter music' (John Rutter)
Christmas choir piece
Girls and boys / Full choir

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks'
Christmas Carol
Cathedral choristers only

Anyone who wishes to use the live choir recordings should email music@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk

You will then be sent a link to the OneDrive folder from which the recordings can be downloaded.

Any parish using the recordings will need to make sure they have the necessary CCLI live streaming licence, and include these pieces in their usual report to CCLI.

We ask that parishes use this credit in their Orders of Services or on-screen at the end of online services:

*Peterborough Cathedral Choir
Recorded live at Peterborough Cathedral, Autumn 2020*

Director of Music: Tansy Castledine

Organist: Chris Strange

*Recording technicians: Chris Pallister
(of Service-AV) and Eugene Chan*



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www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk



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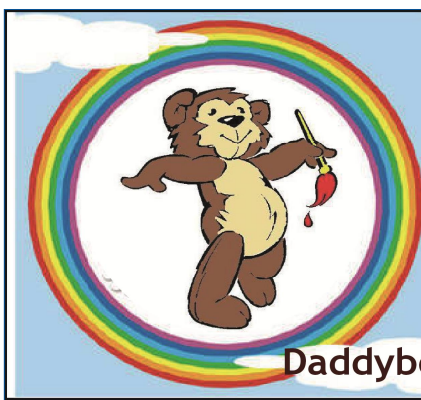
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REGULAR GIVING

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



We must become a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church' - Archbishops

The momentous events of 2020 will have a "profound effect" on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a "simpler, humbler, bolder Church."

The archbishops' comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church's own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: "2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

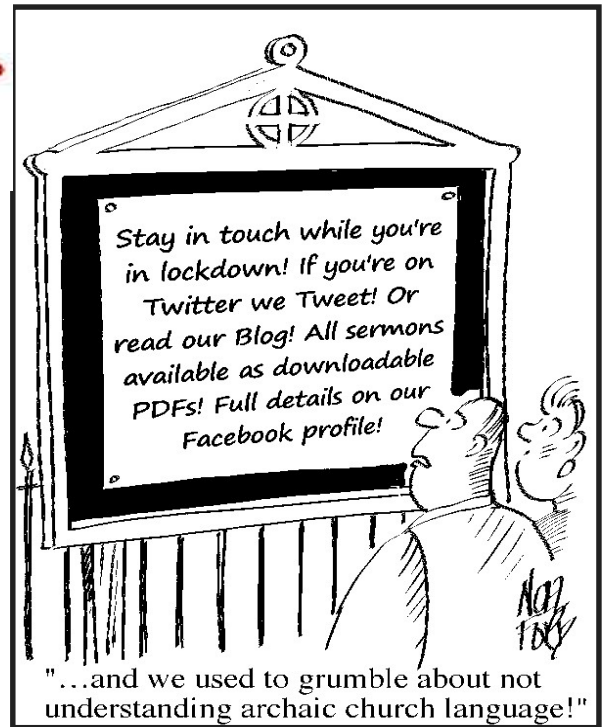
"We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

"For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church."

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: "These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church for England."

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges.

He told Synod: "If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."



The Story is still the same

'Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!' That's the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: 'Hey, you turned off Jesus.' Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas!

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

Canon Paul Hardingham

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

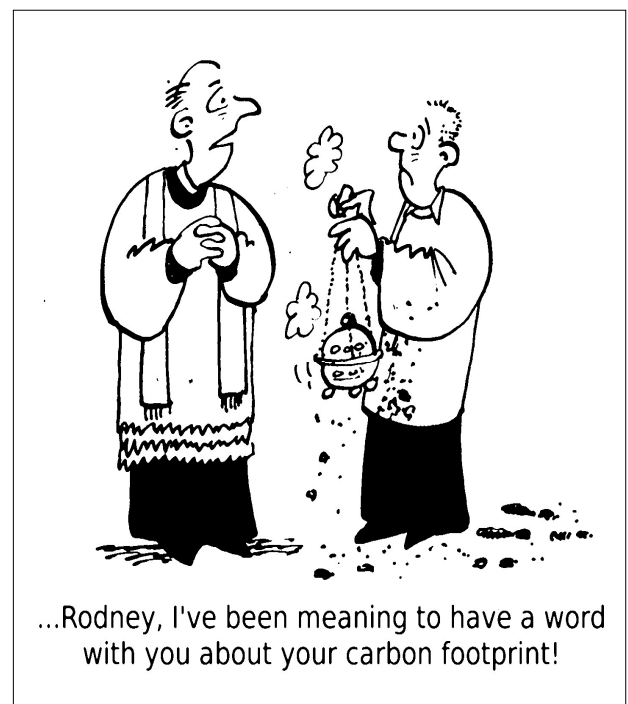
More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

As a new year begins

A prayer by Karl Barth (1886 – 1968). This most prominent Protestant theologian of his time spent much of his life resisting the Nazi movement, and so knew a thing or two about entering a New Year undaunted by troubles all around him.

O Lord, our Father! At the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear Your word, Your voice, Your assurance, Your guidance. We know that You are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.

We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us. You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you.





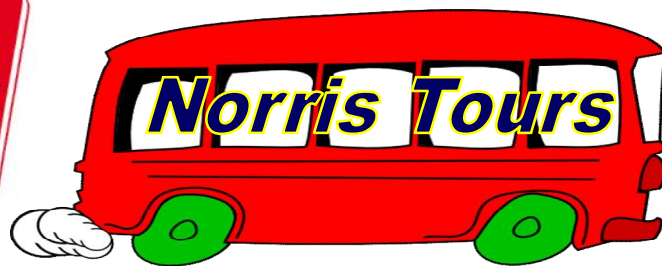
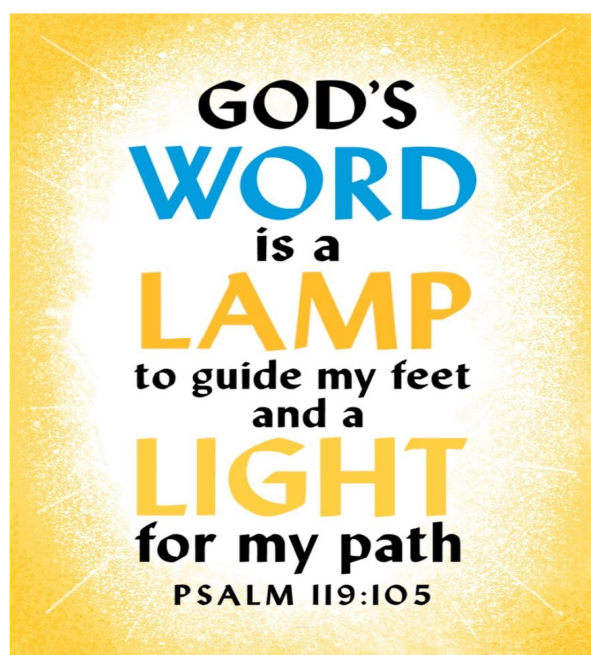
These future dates are provisional - but hopeful!

Nov. 17. A review of Thomas Oden's book 'How Africa shaped the Christian mind' Rev. Phyllis Thompson (New Testament Church of God Education Director)

Jan. 19 2021. The inclusion debate within the Church – esp. with regard to LGBT issues and same-sex marriage, Rev. Richard Coles (Finedon Parish Church)

March 16. Ecumenical progress in Milton Keynes, Canon John Robertson (Director of Ecumenical Mission, MK Mission Partnership)

May 18. How to be a Failure and Still Live Well, Professor Beverly Clack (Oxford Brookes University)



GROUP HOLIDAY 2021

For 8 days 5th to 12th of June

**To Chatsworth House Hotel
Llandudno North Wales**

Situated on Llandudno's seafront, the hotel features a heated indoor pool and separate kids pool.

Cost is £499.00

£20.00 deposit to book a place

Day Trips 2021

Easton Walled gardens Wednesday May 19th

Nestled in a beautiful, rolling valley in South West Lincolnshire Beautiful Gardens, Shop, Plant Sales & Tearoom

- £21.00

**Gloucester & Warwick Steam Railway
Saturday June 26th**

There's so much to see and do when you visit the Gloucester, Warwickshire Steam Railway.

£33.50, OAPs £32.50

Tewkesbury Saturday 24th July

Set on the banks of the River Severn, a vibrant market town with lots to offer. Visit Tewkesbury Abbey, with its world-renowned Norman tower, decorative 12th-century ceiling, beautiful stained glass windows and rich history.

£16.00

Weston Super Mare Saturday 28th August

A great seaside resort with plenty to do. Wonderful sand sculptures, amazing beach, big wheel and plenty of shops.

£19

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

For more information or to book with a deposit of
£5.00pp

Book with Kathy Norris

01604 494057 or 07923017619



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Emmanuel Group Weekly News-sheet

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EMMANUEL GROUP of CHURCHES BILLING BROOK ROAD
NORTHAMPTON NN3 8JR

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

On our website:

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
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.

RECTORY FARM COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rectory Farm Primary School

Olden Road (opposite the local shop)

Sunday service at 10.30 (see back page)

BOOTHVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Boothville Community Hall

Booth Lane North

(access via the lane by the hairdressers)

Sunday service at 10.30 (see back page)

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Weston Favell Centre,

Billing Brook Road

Sunday service at 10.30 (see back page)

Weds Communion at 1.30 (online)

Group Office - Mon - Fri 10 - 2

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

Please check on our website
or facebook page regularly
for news about re-opening
our churches

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/>











Cafe Emm is also in need of support to enable them to keep delivering food to those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you

for helping us continue our work in our community



SERVICES in DECEMBER 2020

Sunday 10.30am	Emmanuel 10.30am	Boothville 10.30am	Online Service 10.30am	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>Communion</u> <u>online</u> 1.30pm
6th Romans 5:6-8 Luke 5:27-31 Entertaining 'undesireables'	Haydon and Lesley Tomalin (if permitted to meet in building)		Lesley Tomalin James Fearnley Prayers David Bell Testimony	Chris Pearson
13th John 12:1-8 Blue Christmas	Rectory Farm meet at Emmanuel Ken Clark + Kris Hatherly		David Warrington Maureen Luke Prayers	Doug Spenceley
20th Luke 14:1-6, 12-14 Pure gift. No ulterior motive			Obi Hez Ken Clark Prayers	Doug Spenceley
Christmas Eve Thursday 24th Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20		Haydon Spenceley	Family Service Haydon Spenceley Stuart and Krissy Cressey Midnight Communion	
Christmas Day Friday 25th Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20			Haydon Spenceley	
27th Galatians 4:4-7		Doug Spenceley		Kris Hatherly



SERVICES IN JANUARY 2021

Are to be arranged. Keep a look out for news about this on our facebook page or website

Join us online every Sunday at 10.30am for a Live Streamed Service
and a short prayer & praise on Wednesdays at 7pm at
www.facebook.comTheEmmanuelGroupOfChurches

You can find daily Bible reflections and 'thoughts for the day'
at <http://emmgroup.org.uk/category/bible-reflections/>

Whenever there is a 'real life' church service
The online services will continue for the foreseeable future

please visit our website for up to date information
www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk