

B E E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & FACTORY FARM TIMES

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

***'As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him.'* (Mark 1.16-18)**

In preparation for our house group this week, we were asked to think about songs or hymns which spoke of following Jesus and what it told us about following. What you would choose? And what would it tell you about following?

We had a variety of old and new hymns from different traditions, as well as a few songs from shows and films. A couple of us settled on *'Jesus calls us o'er the tumult'*. It strikes a strong cord with me as we plough on through the *'tumult of life's wild restless sea'* that we are all experiencing during this last year, and now on into the Spring and beyond.

As our house group explored different occasions when Jesus calls people 'to follow' him, one thing is always clear – Jesus is there with us, so often going before us: on those 'restless' seas, Jesus walked over the water to the disciples' fishing boat. He invited Peter to have the faith to step out of the boat onto the stormy waters and come towards him. As Peter's faith faltered after a few steps, panicked and started drowning, Jesus stretched out his hand to hold Peter up, and together they climbed back into the boat. And the sea calmed. (Matthew 14.22-33) And he does that for us when we ask him.

On a different occasion (Mark 4.35-41), Jesus was there in the boat resting when a storm threatened to overwhelm the boat and drown the disciples. He calmed the sea and the wind with one word. And he does that for us when we ask him.

Especially in these difficult Covid times, it is important for us all to realise the simple fact that Jesus came to us and for us. He shared our lives and pains, our joys and our suffering with us all those years ago. He died for us and rose again to save us and bring us the sure and confident hope of life in all its fulness even beyond our earthly life - even when we are not aware of it, even if we have little faith, no bigger than a tiny seed, even if we have no faith. In the families and friendship circles of so many of us at this time, we have become increasingly aware of sorrow and sadness. We pray that God will stretch out his arm to surround those who are suffering or mourning the loss of loved ones, and that he will lay his hand on them to comfort them.



These last weeks have been additionally difficult for our own family, as Jo mourns the sudden death of her mother. Thank you all for the kind words of condolence, the cards and flowers and the help Jo and Haydon have received. It has been wonderful to know the love, compassion and support of you all. What a shining example it is of following the call of Jesus.

We move in our calendar year from looking back at the birth of Jesus and on towards Jesus' ministry and journey to the Cross. We are reminded that we are called not just to follow Jesus, but to take up our Cross and follow Jesus – and to take that Cross up daily. And so it is that we move forward bearing the burdens we carry as our personal Cross. We journey on towards Ash Wednesday and Lent, to Holy week with Jesus bearing his Cross to his death, but then to his glorious resurrection and the new life and new creation beyond.

We will be continuing to have our worship online for the coming weeks, until we are sure that we can indeed worship safely and responsibly in person together. The service pattern is on our website (see <https://emmgroupp.org.uk> for details). In particular, there will be a service on Ash Wednesday which will introduce the period of Lent. During Lent we shall be looking at the Letter to the Hebrews on Sundays and in our house groups, supported by materials produced by Bishop Donald.

So, what songs or hymns have you chosen? And what **do** they tell you about following Jesus?

May God bless you and keep you safe and well.

Doug

An open letter to the nation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, 27 January 2021

Dear friends

As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic. 100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness. We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God.

We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities. During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commitment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness. One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer.

Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available at <http://www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation>

Finally, we write of hope. We are grateful for the hope we have because of the service of our NHS and social care staff. What a blessing and lifeline for our nation. We are grateful for the service given in local communities by clergy, other frontline workers and so many good neighbours. We are grateful for the hope of the vaccine. It is a testimony to the God-given wisdom and gifts of scientists and researchers. We urge everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you. Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom every tear will be wiped away. Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us.

Café Emm

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

BUT SADLY, NOT AT THE MOMENT

We are at present still sending out meals to 46 people twice a week. But because of the current lockdown we are unable to open the Coffee shop. This means we have no income.

We have a small amount of our grant money left for the meal deliveries at present but unless we get more funding this cannot go on for much longer.

Our search for a new manager has, so far, been unsuccessful. Our current manager, Julie is still with us at present although she was due to leave at Christmas.

At a recent meeting it was decided to continue providing the free meals until February, after which we may have to start charging for them. We will also furlough Julie to save money.

We have received a few more donations which help. We can continue for some time with our current reserves but the issue will be when we can open up we will be limited in the reserves we do have and will need to pay full wages. This will quickly run down our reserves if customers do not return very rapidly.

We are considering moving to a lunch club style service where we would provide a cooked meal 3 times a week which would need to be booked in advance. This would allow us to continue with deliveries and target our resources so that we are not running an empty cafe. We still have to confirm these plans and cost them out.

Please pray for the future of the café, the staff, and funding for the meal deliveries. Please also pray that the management committee will make good decisions about the immediate and long term future.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Our volunteer drivers transport elderly and disabled residents of Northampton to essential medically related and wellbeing appointments. We also cover many long distance appointments.

Full training & support given Use your own car
Expenses of 45p per mile paid
Rewarding role helping vulnerable people

For an informal chat and more information please contact us 01604 628234 or carscheme@voluntaryimpact.org.uk

BAPTIST BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Thank you so much to all members of the Baptist Birthday Scheme who, despite the difficulties of 2020, made sure their donations for this work were still made. I am really pleased to say that a total of £216 was donated. This is an extract from the letter sent from BMS with a receipt for our final payment of the year:



"Three-year-old Fatimé is coming round from surgery. Her hand had been severely burnt after she picked up a hot coal. As she grew, her wounded hand was left untreated and she couldn't even bend her fingers, couldn't play or draw like any other child, until now.

Because you gave, children like Fatimé are receiving life-transforming surgery in Chad, health workers in Nepal are being equipped with PPE to fight Covid-19, and people with mental health struggles in Afghanistan are getting access to the support they need to recover. By choosing to support the BMS Birthday Scheme, your members are playing a vital part in God's work across the world."

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

Learning lessons from lockdown

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

We have started this year in lockdown 3 in a time of global disruption. Everyone's lives are being affected across the globe. We are all being forced to live differently.

I walked through the city of London earlier this week, praying, listening to God and seeing how the city is silent, on pause, waiting. Pause and disruption can be pivotal. A time to reflect, a time to learn new skills and a time of change. Let's embrace the good pieces of the change.

This isn't to trivialise the loss and pain that people are feeling but it is to look to the horizon and see what good might emerge. Personally, I want carry on walking and chatting when I meet a friend, rather than sitting in a coffee shop. What new habit do you want to keep personally?

In HOPE we'll think twice before we book a train ticket, saving the planet and travelling less because we know, for some of our meetings, we can use Zoom. In fact, HOPE can go global from our laptops and phones as those in other countries become as close digitally as the person who lives in the next town. Think of what this means for taking the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth!

Here at HOPE we are walking through a period of transition at a fitting time of disruption. We want to hold on to what is good about HOPE, at the same time as changing for the future. Will you pray for us at this time?

Rachel Jordan-Wolf
Executive director, HOPE Together

A PRAYER

*LOVING GOD,
WE ARE SO THANKFUL WE CAN COME TO YOU.*

*RIGHT NOW, WE NEED YOUR HELP,
TO SEE US THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.*

IN OUR CHALLENGES, WE NEED YOUR SECURITY.

*IN OUR STRIVING, WE NEED YOUR WISDOM.
IN OUR QUESTIONING, WE NEED YOUR GUIDANCE.*

IN OUR SEARCHING, WE NEED YOUR TRUTH.

IN OUR UNCERTAINTY, WE NEED YOUR ANSWERS.

*IN OUR ANXIETY, WE NEED YOUR PEACE.
IN OUR FRUSTRATION, WE NEED YOUR UNDERSTANDING.*

IN OUR FEAR, WE NEED YOUR LOVE.

*IN OUR ANGER, WE NEED YOUR MERCY.
IN OUR WEARINESS, WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH.*

*IN OUR GRIEF, WE NEED YOUR COMFORT.
IN OUR DARKNESS, WE NEED YOUR LIGHT.*

*WE PRAY FOR MOMENTS OF CONNECTION,
RELIEF, GRACE AND EVEN JOY TO COME,
TRUSTING IN YOUR FAITHFULNESS,
HOLDING ON TO HOPE.*

*WALK WITH US, EACH DAY, WE PRAY,
TODAY AND EVERMORE. AMEN*

Found by Doug Spenceley

Community Care Update – February/March

So another month or two of lockdown over, and although things are still cancelled we look forward to a time when we might start things up again.

WE DID IT!

THE MONEY SUPPORT CENTRE finally launched on 13th Jan, and has already had it's first customer! (This was written on 14th Jan, when it had run just once)

I am so grateful for all the prayer and support people have been giving over the past year, to get us to this point.

We haven't been able to launch with a huge fanfare, but everything fell into place.

The support we received from Freedom has been massive. They will be there to hold my hand (remotely) every week when the centre is running.

A lot of the volunteers who received initial training have had to shield or self - isolate. I made a plea to the Emmanuel Group, for people to sit alongside me when we meet with customers. I am so grateful to those who have volunteered, for coming forward.

DELIVERIES AND FOODBANK

At the end of December, I finished working at the foodbank. I had a really good time meeting both customers and volunteers.

Despite all the pressures of the rising numbers served since the start of the pandemic, the team turn up and meet the challenges put before them every week. A huge thanks from me for making me so welcome, and a huge thank you to Anne and her team for all they do in the community they serve.

Well that's me done for another couple of months. If you have any questions about anything, you can message me on paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk.

Paul



You can contact me at the church office

402150 or email:

paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk



Alongside the support centre, we are running something called **Outcome Star**. It is seen as a journey, walking alongside the client and looking at different aspects of their life. The aspects are as follows

- Money
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Family and relationships
- Friends and connections
- Confidence and aspirations
- Skills
- Stability at home

This scale covers managing your money, including getting the right benefits, paying debts and bills, having a bank account and feeling in control of your money. It's also about exploring whether you would be better off in work, at least in the longer term.

Clients are scored on a scale between 1 & 5. We work with them to help them improve their lives and suggest ways to move forward on their journey. The scale 1 to 5 is reflected as following journey of change.

Not ready yet I'm having serious problems with money. I don't want to talk about this.

Talking about it I'm having serious problems with money but talking to someone about this

Giving it a go I'm working out how to address money problems

Keeping going I'm trying to work out ways to address money problems but I am still learning what works

Managing ok Money is not a barrier to moving towards work. I'm managing my money well enough

The answers are scored on a database and we meet with them after a couple of months to see how they have improved. The recorded data can be used in funding applications to see the different ways we have improved people's lives.





The foodbank continues to be busy...

In 2019 we distributed food parcels to just under 6000 people. In 2020 the number rose to just over 12000 people. This is a huge leap forward. In one year we have moved from being open one day a week to three days a week plus deliveries to the most vulnerable.

Times are tough and with many people losing their jobs our aim is for the foodbank to be seen as a hub to visit for information and advice as well as providing food parcels. With that in mind we hope to introduce partners back into the unit and we are working on ways to do this whilst still abiding by social distancing.

Paul Foster's Money Support Centre launched on 13th January. Paul will be visual in the unit to promote the service. We will be able to signpost people and help them with issues relating to money.

We are still working with Food4Heroes who donated Christmas Dinners for all our foodbank guests. Greencore donate around 100 sandwiches and wraps a week for the foodbank guests and volunteers.

We are abiding to the Social Distancing Laws in the Foodbank, using the government guidance we have masks, screens, hand sanitiser and have limited numbers in the foodbank at one time, We have changed the way we work to ensure that everyone is as safe as they possibly can be.

People are still being very generous. Since the start of the pandemic many people have changed to cash donations but we continue to receive food donations as well. Thank you, we would not be able to run the foodbank without your support .

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



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 Thursdays.

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Following the announcement of the new lockdown, the Re-Opening Team met on January 5th. This is myself, John Weaver, Linda Withers,, Rachel Tighe and Mike Maddocks.

Following the meeting I contacted the rest of our Trustees and sought their prayers and support for the direction we were feeling it was right to take. Thankfully, was given. The key outcome of this prayerful process is that our Churches will not be open for physically-gathered services at the present time. The reasons for this are, amongst others:

As almost every other opportunity to gather together indoors has been deemed unsafe, it feels uncomfortable that the main opportunity people may have to spread or receive the virus is in a Church gathering. I personally think it sends the wrong message if we don't stand with others who are being restricted at this time for very good reasons. I am not comfortable as Team Rector to host a service (or any other event) which leaves someone who otherwise might stay safely at home in a quandary about whether they 'ought' to come to Church or not. We will of course be continuing our online provision this year.

If you are able to join us on facebook: It is our usual time of 10.30 on Sundays for our main service, 7pm on Wednesdays for a short service & YouTube for our Midweek Communion Services.

Worshipping online isn't what many of us would ideally choose, but I have found many times over the last 11 months that there has been a profound sense of God amongst us, even as we are physically apart from one another.

I will continue to offer material for individual and group Bible Study, along with the Clergy Team, which will be available on our website. If you find that you have need of support, conversation, assistance, prayer or anything else, PLEASE let us know. I have loved seeing the Church family at work together supporting one another over the last year.

Please also, make use of the Weekly Prayer Sheet. I know many people use it to guide their prayers. If you don't know what this

is or how to get hold of a copy, please contact Fiona Potter, or Linda Withers in the Church Office.

We are of course left with a couple of outstanding things to consider and act on:

1. Prayer for an end to the primary impact of Coronavirus.

2. Make sure that we support our Church family effectively, especially those who are not able to access what is provided by Emmanuel online.

The Boothville team and congregation have done a marvellous job over the last 11 months, as this is the group primarily affected by our worship being online only, but if there are ways we could serve one another better whether online or offline, I would be delighted to hear suggestions.

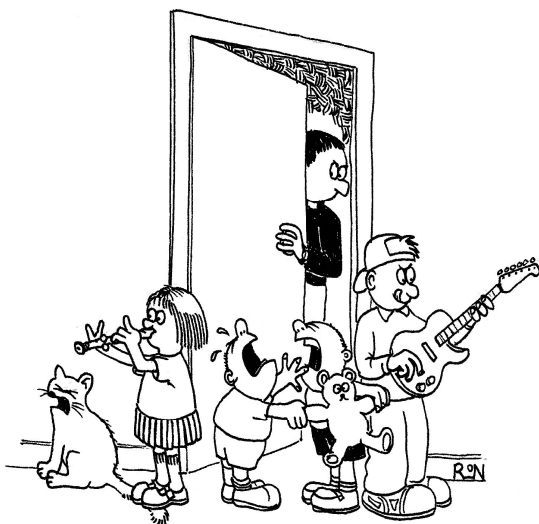
Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.

If we follow Jesus, we know that we can have a sure footing and foundation for our lives, even when all around us it feels like sinking sand and uncertainty, and we also know that once we run this race of life as if to win, we will also be welcomed home to find true rest, peace and joy with Him.

Whatever these next few months hold for us individually, or as a Church family, let's do all we can to remain thankful and hopeful. This is an unbelievably tough and painful time for many of us and many around us. Keep walking with Jesus in this season. Many thanks in advance, for your prayers and support in the coming weeks.

Every blessing

Haydon



Kevin took himself off to his study to pray for peace

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5 year-old Sammy stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Sammy inquired as to what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by", his father responded. "Wouldn't you just know it?" Sammy complained, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."



Do you shop at the Co-op?

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THANK YOU!

TACKLING HUNGER IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Matthew 25:35 "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"

Last year saw the launch of a series of online **Community Conversations** to help promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals locally to show how our work enables us to **'think global and act local'**. We got to hear from a range of local practitioners on their work, challenges and approaches in helping tackle and lift local people experiencing financial hardship out of poverty and provide a safety net. This included the work of **SOFEA, Weston Favell Food Bank, The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation, KCU Limited, Power of the Mind, Food4Heroes** and **The British Red Cross**. We heard from our donors, friends and trustees on why tackling poverty is a key priority and the importance of the role of the Northamptonshire community foundation in providing funds as a place-based grant maker to community groups and charities which are on the frontline of working with residents who are living on the sharp end of poverty. Each Community Conversation will provide an opportunity to come up

with an initial action plan to improve activity and work in helping achieve each UN SDG by 2030. You spoke and we listened. As a result these are the next actions we will be taking to support work on achieving zero hunger locally. This is our commitment to you. **Northamptonshire Community Foundation commits to the following actions to help achieve UN SDG 2: Zero Hunger in Northamptonshire: Funding:** we will commit to funding projects that cover a broad range of issues tackling hunger including food insecurity, access to nutritious food and food waste; we will reach out to fund projects that support the most vulnerable such as those being supported who have no recourse to public funds and projects that promote diversity, equity and inclusion such as projects providing culturally appropriate foods. **Partnership work and campaigning:** we will continue to facilitate Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network and support and collaborate with other local food aid partnerships

to campaign and raise awareness to tackle the stigma around local residents experiencing food poverty. **Reaching the most vulnerable people:** we will support via our ongoing partnership work such as Community Resilience COVID-19 cell network to help fund projects that are identifying and working with the most vulnerable residents in Northamptonshire who may be struggling to access affordable and nutritious food.

Keeping Zero Hunger on the local agenda: we will continue to influence and lobby local and national government through our work and partnerships to ensure there remains a meaningful long term focus on tackling food insecurity with sustainable solutions.

For more information on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) please visit our website <http://www.ncf.uk.com/about-us/latest-news/thinking-global-and-acting-local?dm>

Lent - more of the same or a time of renewal?

Well, here we are once again on the cusp of Lent – traditionally a season of penitential preparation for the great feast of Easter; 40 days of self-discipline with the promise of a party at the end of it.

Except, of course, that this year is different. This year, we approach Lent having already been subjected to a period of almost unyielding restraint and self-denial. We have been deprived of so much that for so long we took for granted: the freedom to go wherever we wanted whenever we wanted; to enjoy unhesitatingly the company of family and friends; to shake hands, hug, be at ease with one another.

As Christian people we have been permitted to “assemble and meet together” (at least after the rigours of the first lockdown were eased), but our offering of worship has been muted by the need to keep safe. We have been socially distanced, separated from one another, masked; no sharing of the peace, no common cup, no after-service fellowship or coffee (who thought we could mourn the church coffee?!) and, possibly worst of all, no singing.

For all the beautiful music offered by our Cathedral choir and other musicians, Christmas without carols felt (at least to me) an especially harsh deprivation.

And it feels like such a long haul now – indeed we are fast approaching a year of life under Covid, and we are all wearied of it. Like Narnia in CS Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, it feels as if this winter of the soul will never end.

But, of course, like all things, this will pass.



The programme of vaccinations is beginning to pick up pace and maybe by Easter, life will be that bit easier; the “thaw” will be underway, the spring will come and we may begin to breathe again.

In the story of Narnia, it is the return to life of the great Lion, Aslan, after a cruel death, that breaks the power of the White Witch and ushers in the end of Winter. CS Lewis is of course writing an allegory of the Christian story, and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

So as we brace ourselves for Lent, that extraordinary hope stands before us as a guiding light. New life will come – for our Church, for our society, for our world. It may not look like the old normal – perhaps that's a good thing – but God's unconquerable love is offered to us all.

So may we embrace the challenge of this coming Lent, and not see it as an unbearable continuation of what has been, but a time to hope, pray and reflect on how, under God, things might be and (by his grace) shall be.

May he richly bless you this Lent.

**The Very Revd.
Christopher Dalliston**

Dean of Peterborough



Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

SWANWICK 2021

Following the huge disappointment of having to cancel the weekend at Swanwick in 2020, we have been determined to offer something in 2021, but sadly, we have made the decision not to meet face to face at Swanwick because of the ongoing uncertainties of life with Covid 19, and the need to keep everyone as safe as possible.

However, we are delighted to be able to invite you to 'Together, with Hope on the Way', an online conference taking place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 2021. It will be different to our previous conferences, but nonetheless an exciting new venture, which will be accessible to a wider audience.

Our keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole will be joining us 'virtually' from Albania, to talk about her work educating and training young people to help prevent them becoming trafficked. There will also be worship, prayer and Bible study, plus news and information on the work of the World Federation, and a chance for us to celebrate 'together' the tenth anniversary of MWiB. You can find more information and register your interest now on the MWiB website: <https://mwib.org.uk/index.php/2021/01/15/swanwick-2021-together-with-hope-on-the-way/>

I hope you'll consider joining us - and please pray for the conference as we continue to prepare and as we meet online.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We're currently seeking two volunteers to work with us as we lead this exciting and growing movement into its second decade:

Communications Coordinator, and Website & Social Media Coordinator.

Could this be you? Or someone you know? Perhaps a younger person, or someone not directly connected with MWiB?

You can find an advert for noticeboards, newsletters, websites etc. along with further information and application packs for both roles on our website: <https://mwib.org.uk/index.php/2021/01/11/looking-for-a-new-challenge-2/>

Keep in touch with MWiB and the World Federation on our Facebook page: Methodist Women in Britain and via Twitter: @MethodistWomen
With best wishes

Jude

Judith R Simms
Communications Officer Methodist Women in Britain

John Jeffreys

Electrical



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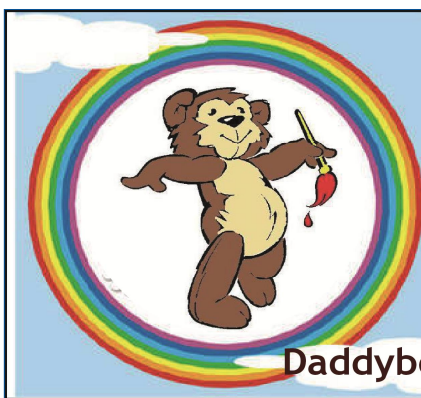
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REGULAR GIVING

*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

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Daddybear Face Painting

Let us not be weary in well doing' (Galatians 6:9 KJV)

Most Christians who have committed their lives wholeheartedly to the Lord's service know what it is to become dejected, listless and discouraged. We cease to feel much for the things that we used to be passionate about. We have little empathy for the suffering, or righteous anger about injustice. Prayer, worship and reading the Bible seem to be meaningless mechanical exercises.

In modern times, an extreme version of this state is sometimes called by the exciting name of 'burn-out'. Long ago, however, the Greek word *acedia* was used, literally meaning 'not caring'. Such sluggishness of heart was greatly feared by the early Christians.

Although the word does not occur in the Bible, *acedia* was considered one of the most dangerous sins into which a believer could fall. Even towering spiritual heroes can be overtaken by *acedia*, especially after a time of great stress, exertion, or persecution.

Elijah was afflicted so badly at one point that he begged to die: ***I have had enough, Lord. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.*** (1Kings 19:4)

Jeremiah, worn down by mockery and opposition to his prophetic ministry, reached such a low that he cursed the day he had been born (Jeremiah 20:7-18).

John the Baptist was apparently overwhelmed with doubts while in prison and needed assurance that his cousin Jesus was indeed the Messiah (Matthew 11:3).

We have all come through a long hard year of Coronavirus. Even if not much affected ourselves, we were burdened by the knowledge of rising poverty, shrinking economies and growing inequality across the globe, with increasing anti-Christian violence in many places too. At the same time, our normal spiritual disciplines and input were probably disrupted by lockdown.

Perhaps some of us feel the inertness of *acedia* creeping up on us? As a new year starts, our hearts sink and we struggle to find the energy to keep giving of ourselves. If so, the

Bible has a message for us at the beginning of 2021:

Let us not become weary in doing good. (Galatians 6:9)

These words were written by Paul, who knew all about stress, danger, and exhaustion. In the first chapter of 2 Corinthians, he shares with us very frankly about a time when he hit rock bottom, when he became so extremely discouraged and his afflictions were so crushingly great that he despaired even of life itself (2 Corinthians 1:8-9). But he goes on in the same letter to state with determination that: ***we do not lose heart. (2 Corinthians 4:1,16)***

In fact, the Greek word that Paul uses to the Corinthians, *enkakoumen*, usually translated into English along the lines of 'not losing heart' or 'not being discouraged', is the same word that he uses to the Galatians, where it is most often translated along the lines of 'not becoming weary'.

What is clear is that we must strive to conquer inner discouragement, rather than yield to it. We must not give up seeking to walk closely with the Lord, to hear His voice and to do His will. We must continue to do good, in Christ's name. Paul goes on to clarify what he means about doing good: ***'As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.'*** (Galatians 6:10)

So, we face a new year with courage, with faith, with trust in God and with a resolution that we will continue to serve Him with our whole being.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.
(Katharina von Schlegel, translation, Jane Borthwick)

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo,
(international director Barnabas Aid.)

This article first appeared in the Barnabas Aid journal and is re-published with their permission.

**THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR
YOU. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO
IS KEEP STILL.**

EXODUS 14:14

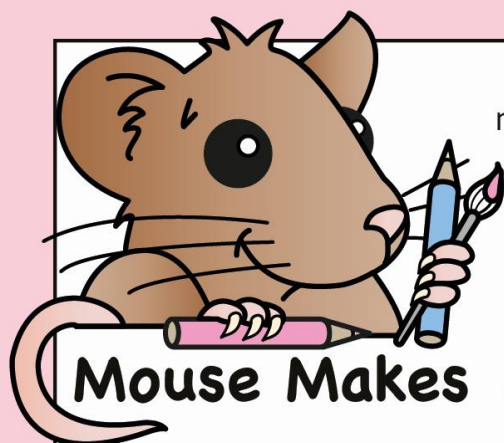


Can we help?

If you are in particular need of prayer or support during this difficult time, please do contact the Church, either by messaging our Facebook page or through our website at:

<https://emmgroup.org.uk/contact/>

we will get through this time
together, with God
and with one another.



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3

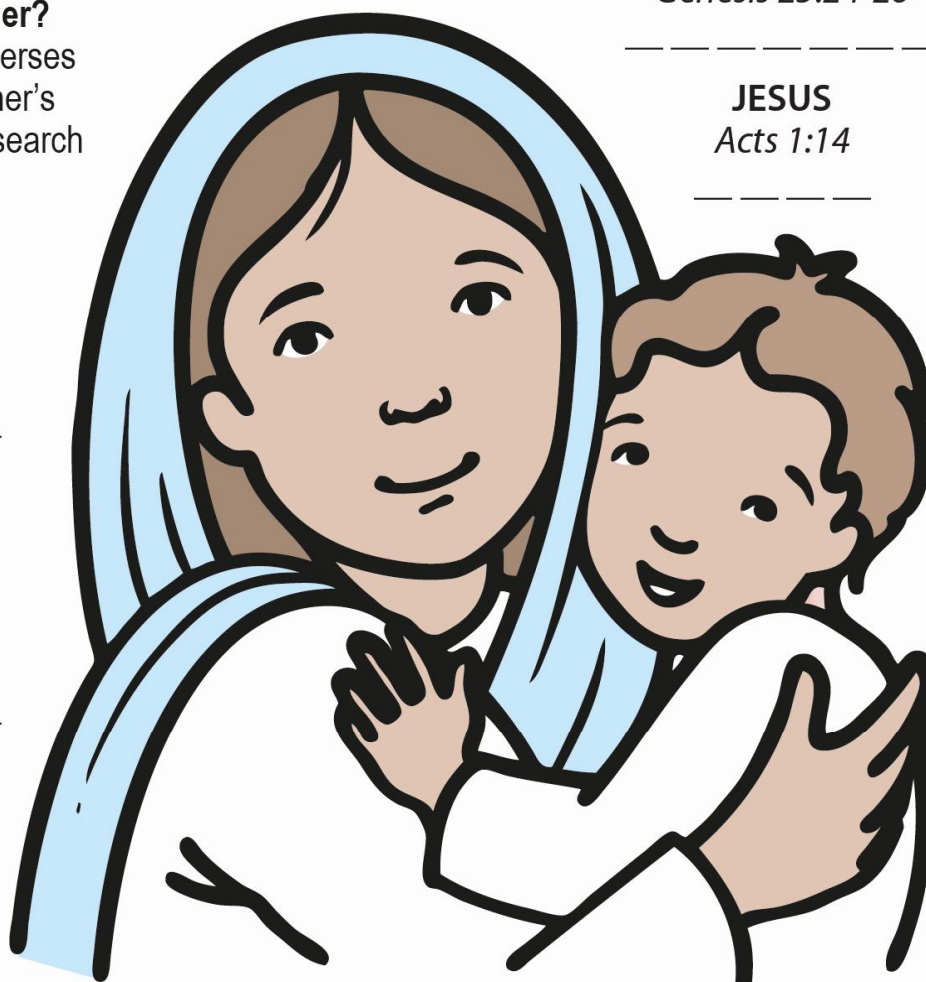
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14



R	A	C	H	E	L	M	A	R	Y	A	V	Z
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	E	V	I
B	Z	D	R	E	B	V	S	U	A	U	O	L
E	T	M	U	M	L	E	A	H	N	N	L	P
K	M	O	T	H	E	R	R	T	N	I	E	A
A	I	S	H	H	A	G	A	R	A	C	G	H
H	S	T	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

The Census is coming..

Every ten years, the census provides a unique snapshot of our society.

The next census is happening in March 2021. By taking part you will be helping to make sure your local community is counted in decisions on services and funding.

Billions of pounds are allocated to local services using census based information every year.

So that these funds can be allocated in the most appropriate and effective ways, it's important the census accurately captures everyone in our society. These services include doctors' surgeries, schools, library provision, public transport and special services to support the community.

There will be advertisements on TV and in newspapers shortly, and towards the end of February a postcard will be delivered to every home across the Country to remind them that the Census is happening.

At the beginning of March, every home will receive an Information Pack in the post. This Pack, which will be in English, will explain how to complete the Census form. Other translations will be available.

The first modern UK census was in 1801.



It collected everyone's name and address, and some age data...but the first thorough survey of England was in 1086 when William the Conqueror ordered the production of the Domesday Book.

This detailed inventory of land and property was a massive undertaking at the time, taking many years to complete.

In 1841, English romantic painter William Turner, rowed a boat into the centre of the Thames so he could not be counted as present at any property in that census.

In 1911, Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison hid overnight in a cupboard, in a crypt in the Houses of Parliament. Her protest aimed to give her residence on the form as the Houses of Parliament. In the end, she was counted twice, once in parliament and once by her landlady!



These Historical documents that prove this is the case

The event is considered to be such a landmark event in British politics that a plaque was secretly installed in Parliament in honour of her rebellious act by Tony Benn, with the aid of Helena Kennedy QC and Jeremy Corbyn.

In 2011, the last census captured more than **94%** of people in England and Wales. The population on Census Day was **56,075,912**.

On Census Day itself 1,586 babies were born in England and Wales
6,242 people put their religion as 'Heavy Metal'
...and 176,632 people identified as Jedi!



Jedi with their light sabers in the Star wars Film

Christianity was the largest religion, with **33.2 million** people (59.3 per cent of the population). The second largest religious group were Muslims with 2.7 million people (4.8 per cent of the population).

'ZOOMED OUT?'

'You're still on mute!' If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry!



After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is using it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: *'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.'* (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel safer, but in reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: *'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!'* (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that *'God is bigger than Zoom'* and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.

Paul Hardingham

14th March: Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers ; all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes, Simnel cakes, traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



With the third lockdown, too many of us are facing a torrent of stress over job insecurity, home schooling, isolation, illness, or all of the above!

Stress makes us want to eat badly, exercise less and drink more. It also has a profound effect on our immune system.

While brief or 'acute' stress can spur us on to some specific achievement, the opposite is true of 'chronic' stress, which does only damage. It suppresses our immune system, making us more susceptible to bugs. That is why a stressful event can leave you feeling run down, or trigger a bad cold, so how can we give our immune systems some help during this crisis

A balanced diet includes at least all six plant-based food groups: fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, legume, nuts and seeds.

Exercise every day: regular moderate exercise helps your immune system.

Get enough sleep. It has been called "the foundation of the immune system." Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and keep devices, laptops or screens away from you for an hour before bedtime. Instead, stretch and relax, and consider a hot shower or bath.

Finally, don't be mean to yourself. Practise some self-compassion. Give yourself some private time, forget perfectionism, and accept that 'sometimes half-good is good enough.' Be kind to yourself – because even that will help your immune system.



Spirituality and mental health

February 4 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

ON ZOOM

A webinar looking at what spirituality has to do with mental health will take place from 6 to 7 pm on Thursday 4th February: please feel free to register at https://dellmed-utexas.zoom.us/webinar/register/7016075278592/WN_q2LJJ_shS1mhxpQ5O9x-g

These future dates are provisional - but hopeful!

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,

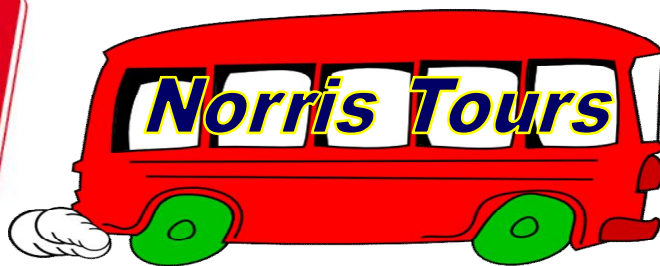
Professor Beverly Clack (Oxford Brookes University)

February 13 The voice of women in Christian worship and leadership

@ 1.00pm—3.30pm

The Oliver Lyseight Annual Lecture for 2021 will be given online on Saturday 13 February at 1pm by Rev Dr Carol Tomlin. It is organised by the New Testament Church of God Leadership Training Centre and is open to all.

Book your place: 01604 580912



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
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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 FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday 10.30am	Emmanuel 10.30am	Boothville CC 10.30am	Rectory Farm CC	ONLINE SERVICES 10.30am	<u>WEDNESDAY</u> <u>1.30PM</u> <u>COMMUNION</u>
7th 1 Cor 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	Haydon Spenceley + James Fearnley			Yvonne Desroches	Doug Spenceley
14th 2 Cor 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9		Doug Spenceley + Peter Angus		Haydon Spenceley	
17th Ash Wednesday 2Cor 5:20—6:10	7pm Doug Spenceley				Doug Spenceley
21st Hebrews 1st session			Yvonne Desroches + Fiona Potter	Stuart Jenkins	Yvonne Desroches
28th Hebrews 2nd session		Chris Pearson + Ken Clark		Chris Pearson	March 3rd Doug Spenceley

SERVICES IN MARCH 2021

7th Hebrews 3rd session	Yvonne Desroches & Haydon Spenceley			David Bell	
14th Hebrews 4th session		Doug Spenceley & Maureen Luke		Obi Hez	
21st Hebrews 5th session			Stuart Jenkins & Kris Hatherly	Doug Spenceley	Yvonne Desroches
28th Hebrews 6th session		Chris Pearson & David Bell		Peter Angus	Doug Spenceley

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

for a **LIVE STREAMED SERVICE**

and a short prayer & praise on Wednesdays at 7pm at

You can find daily Bible reflections
and 'thoughts for the day'
at [http://emmgroup.org.uk/
category/bible-reflections/](http://emmgroup.org.uk/category/bible-reflections/)

Online services will continue for
the foreseeable future
Even when there is a 'real life'
church service

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