

B E E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & FACTORY FARM TIMES

Dear all,

I want to encourage you, our readers and Church family members to keep on believing in God, trusting in the one he has sent (Jesus), stay faithful and not to fall away from faith. It's been such a long year and it feels like a real challenge to be persistent and consistent with faith when we're facing such new and always-shifting challenges, but understanding more of just how *great* Jesus is and how *wide, long, high and deep* the love of God for each and every person is will surely help us to keep going, even and especially on the days when we very much don't feel like doing so.

Over the last months we've been worshipping solely online, as you'll all be aware. It has been sad and difficult not to be able to be together in our buildings for worship in our normal congregations, but I'm glad that we are close to having services in buildings once again, from Easter Sunday, April 4th, alongside continuation of our online worship.

It may be that you're not ready to return to buildings for worship yet, which I fully and absolutely understand. We will seek to offer services that we think will aid our life with God and one another both in-person and online, as we always have. I hope that however you meet with God, you will continue to do exactly that, meet with God. It's good to gather together of course, but as Doug preached on March 21st, the point of the Christian faith is that we have access to and connection with God through Jesus and the gift of the Spirit now and forever *wherever* we are if we put our trust in Him.

We will be communicating as widely as possible about how you can book in to attend in-person services. I hope and pray that they will be safe and successful. I'm so grateful to everyone who contributes to any of our services and any part of the life of our Church. I think it really is true that we are a family of faith. Sometimes families do better and sometimes do worse but one of the things that I have grown to love about Emmanuel is the way that we all have a part to play and that we all play it.

Recently, hearing the story of little Eliah, seriously unwell in Northampton General Hospital and how God sent one of the members of our Church to comfort the family and support them whilst on shift, merely because this person was seeking to follow our approach as a Church, to always be ready to listen to God and do what He invites us to, really warmed my heart. We continue to pray for Eliah and all who are unwell, whether they are in hospital or not. I was reminded that God has a loving eye turned on each of His children. We're not hidden from his view. He knows our need, hears our cries for help, as well as our thanks and praise.



As we celebrate Easter, we're celebrating among other things, the defeat of death which Jesus won in battle, so that whatever comes, we can have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Doesn't it feel like we need that more and more with each passing day? We can have it, it's on offer to us. We just have to ask.

I ask your prayers for a few key things that are in process at the moment. First, we are moving through an appointment process for a new Free Church Minister. Please pray for us

and for the person God is calling. I look forward to the involvement of the members of our Church in this decision and hope we will have good news soon.

Second, please give thanks that we are beginning a partnership around working for the good of Young People in our area, which has brought about stronger links with partners in youth work but also with Northampton Academy. I'd ask you to pray for Mell and the team as they seek to begin and bed in this work.

Third, please pray for the continued success of the Money Support Centre and other work Paul is developing.

Fourth, please pray that we find a good way to fix the hole in the roof (why not, hey? Wouldn't it be nice).

Fifth, please pray for us as we explore further work with Edge Ministries and the Message Trust to meet more people on estates around us and as Yvonne and others of us explore opportunities to pioneer new things and reinvigorate some of our existing work.

Sixth and most of all, please pray that in this season of the easing of restrictions, whether people feel joy, anxiety or something in between, we might also see people turning to Jesus Christ as the answer to the deepest questions we all have.

Amazing work has been done through Emmanuel Church over this last year. Truly amazing work. I long to see people saved and brought to the fullness of life that only God can bring. That is the goal of all of this. Making a place better is a great thing to do. Improving lives is a great thing to do but what makes us different and distinctive in our Christian faith is believe in, love for and trust in Jesus. Without that we're nice people doing nice things, and that's fine enough but it is Jesus and his good news which is the power of God for the saving of all who believe. That is what we have to share. Let's share it as widely as we can.

Every blessing to all,
Haydon

Normal service is resumed

... (well not quite)

We are beginning to offer in-person services again from Easter Sunday.

To some this may come as a surprise or feel too soon. Many of our people are not online and have not been able to join with us as we've worshipped online over the last twelve months.

For each person or household I think it's an individual choice about how we choose to respond to the current loosening of restrictions that are taking place in our nation. I hope each of us responds with prayer, not just for ourselves or those we love, but for everyone around us.

As I thought and prayed and discussed with the Re-opening Team, we took the view that given the number who wish to attend in-person services and feel comfortable doing so, it is right for us to offer that at this stage.

For those who won't be joining us, our online services will continue. I am looking to grow the team involved in leading those and these online gatherings will continue to be a priority for us, alongside the services we are able to have in buildings.

My personal caution about 're-entering' society I know is felt by others. Please do what you feel led and comfortable to do. Please continue to prioritise meeting in whatever way you can for worship, prayer, teaching and learning or finding ways to show the wider community the love of God.

Some are excited to be 'back' in buildings again and to you I say, I hope you enjoy worshipping God in a Church building once again. All the worship we give together, whether online or off-line is equally legitimate, valuable and I think and hope, pleasing to God. No one kind of worship is better than another.

Please remember too that numbers of people who can physically gather remain limited to around 20 per gathering. I know that in trying to *include* some people who have previously been *excluded* the opposite is potentially going to happen.

Some who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 will feel more ready to do things than others who have not yet. This has the effect of meaning that it might seem like we are not all *together* in worship. This is so hard and it grieves me. Whatever we do, some people are not able to be with us. It's an impossible circle to square. All I can ask is that you forgive me if you feel that this is not or has not been handled correctly.

Lastly, some really good news. A lady named Andrea who is brand new to faith is being baptised on Easter Sunday at Emmanuel. Please join me in being excited that Andrea is joining our family of faith. There really is always room for one more here.

Haydon

RE-OPENING SCHEDULE

* Please note that numbers of people who can physically gather remain limited to around 20 per gathering. This means you will need to book a place with your service co-ordinator if you want to come to one of the services.

Both Emmanuel and Boothville will have 'live' services at 10.30am on April 4th which is, of course, Easter Sunday.

Thereafter, Emmanuel will meet fortnightly from 11th April. So that will be; April 4th, 11th, 25th etc...

Boothville will meet fortnightly from April 4th. So that will be; April 4th, 18th etc...

This will likely be the pattern until the June 21st national roadmap date for re-opening things.

For those who won't be joining us, our online services will continue to be a priority for us alongside the services we are able to have in buildings.



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

April showers ?



April showers – every time the heavens open & another deluge descends, I find myself transported in a dream to the top of Weston Favell Centre, looking down on to Emmanuel & the sports hall roof, viewing the water, making bigger puddles all round the edge of the roof, & knowing that sooner or later, all that water will make its way downwards until it reaches the ground – on the way, it will have travelled, literally, down through the Emmanuel building.

Which reminds me.....we need to get the roof repaired.



But first, we say thank you to all who have made donations, large & small ; many individuals & some organisations.

In the early days, it was a fairly straightforward project - just gather in sufficient funds, instruct the roofing company to do the work, pay the bill, & there it is, job done.

Then, one funder kindly said we could have a substantial award, which was to be used towards the roof & towards the project for installing a shower & refurbishing the toilets, upstairs & downstairs; our immediate reaction was “Yippee, we’re almost there!”, but then we read on, into the small print.

And it all became more complicated from there on. It was a condition that we employ an architect to draw up a detailed specification, to get all the quotes in, & to supervise the work as it was done. Everything became more expensive as quotes arrived in response to the architect’s detailed specification, a specification which would give us a better quality finish than first envisaged.

Donations for the roof from the congregation amount to some £21,000 ; donations & pledges from outside organisations towards both projects currently total some £56,000 ; the final total which we need to raise can’t yet be quantified as we still await some quotes. We still have a number of applications under consideration, for funding. Suffice it to say that any further donations will be gratefully received.



John Weaver

Community Care Update

April/MaY

Another month or two of lockdown is over, and the road to re-opening things is looking like it is starting..

As with most things, a lot of our re-opening dates are based on government guidelines at the time, so we pray that the right decisions are made to ensure everyone's safety.

So, what is re-opening at the minute

I am still running the **money support centre** on a Wednesday in the foodbank. The numbers of people we see varies week to week, some weeks we have none, other weeks we two or three people to see.

We are affiliated to freedom and in early March I had a meeting with them. They are very pleased with the numbers coming at this early stage and said that it takes time for people to know we are there for them. From that point of view it is good that we are based, for now, in the foodbank.

Please pray for the support centre, that people come along to see us, because we know the need is there.

And what about the future

We have continued talking with Renew Wellbeing about starting up a **renew wellbeing café**. We are having discussions with the area co-ordinator who suggests we look to start opening in September.

I am going to put an appeal out next BERT, but initially, our thinking is that we will run the wellbeing café on Thursday afternoons between 2 & 4pm. There is a very good video about what they do at:

<https://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk/what-we-do>.

We are having talks again with Blackthorn School and Growing Together about restarting **FISH**, it looks like the earliest it will start is the summer holidays and I will be able to give an update next BERT. We will be involved in a couple of fun days throughout the summer holidays as well.

Both the **board games café** and **Brookside drop-in** will be re-starting at the end of June, or beginning of July.

Well that's me done for another couple of months. If you have any questions about anything, or want to volunteer to help with any of our projects, you can message me on:

paul.foster@emmanuelgroup.org.uk.



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



The Money Advice Centre



Acts435 is a national Christian charity that connects people who want to help those that have a need



I have been an advocate for **Acts 435** for a number of years. It is a Christian charity that provides monetary support for people in a crisis. People donate to the charity and we can apply for money towards pretty much anything.

We have had successful bids to fund money towards cookers, washing machines, beds and mattresses. A lot of the people who can apply are referred to me via the foodbank staff and it has been a real honour for us to be able to help them in this way.

There are lots of ways you could be helping people through Acts 435. Have a look on their website to find out more

www.acts435.org.uk

Paul

Monday Night Prayer

Every Monday evening at 7.30pm a group of us meet via zoom just for an hour. We are usually led by Haydon. We pray mostly for our local communities and for our church but we also pray about issues from all over the world, places which have been in the news and, of course, for an end to the pandemic and where-ever else the Lord leads us.

Anyone can pray and it's amazing at how infrequently folk start to pray at the same time, which I was concerned about initially.

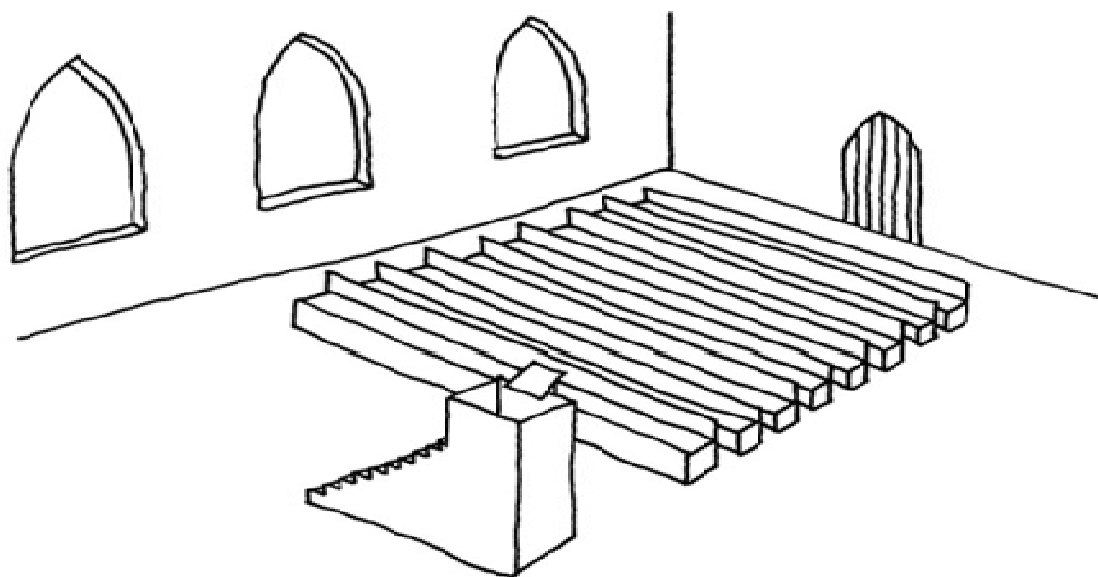
Yvonne led us last week when there were about 17 of us but numbers vary enormously.

We find it very encouraging. It is wonderful how much we can feel the Holy Spirit's presence in a zoom meeting! If you are interested in joining us, contact Haydon and he will send you the link for zoom.

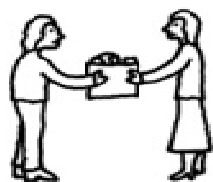
Pip Thompson



THE CHURCH IS EMPTY



THIS IS BECAUSE EVERYONE IS BUSY



HELPING AT THE
FOOD BANK



DELIVERING
PRESCRIPTIONS



CREATING
ONLINE WORSHIP



RUNNING THE
DEBT ADVICE CENTRE

CartoonChurch.com

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs...

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:



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

Birchfield Rd
Bushland Rd
Bellinge
Rectory Farm
Spinney Hill

THANK YOU!



Back in January we heard that Weston Favell Centre Foodbank had been nominated for the 'Rose of Northamptonshire' award and we were confirmed as the winner!

Anne Woodley, our manager, accepted the award on behalf of all our wonderful paid and voluntary staff at the 'Rose of Northamptonshire Virtual Award Ceremony' on Monday 25th January.

The High Sheriff, Paul Parsons presented the award, congratulating Anne on "the incredible work you have been doing and extending out gratitude to you".

Anne then told them a little about what we do at foodbank. The award is on display in the store.



IDEAS FOR FOOD DONATIONS

Tinned Fish	Tinned Meat
Tinned Veg	Tinned Beans/spaghetti
Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Fruit
Tinned or packet custard	Tinned Rice Pudding
Jam or marmalade	Biscuits
Tea bags and coffee	Dried Pasta
Long life fruit juice/squash	Long life milk
Packet Rice	Jars of pasta/curry sauce
Sugar	Cooking Oil
Salt	Toilet Rolls
Men's and Ladies Toiletries	Dog and Cat food
Washing up liquid	Washing tablets or gel pods
Baby nappies (all sizes)	Baby Wipes
Toothbrushes/toothbrushes	Razors

OPENING TIMES For Donations

Monday
10 - 14.00

Tuesday
10 - 14.00

Wednesday
10 - 14.00

Thursday Closed

Friday
10 - 14.00



Weston Favell Centre foodbank operates from a shop unit in the centre. We will continue with our work as long as we have supplies.

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-cent food-bank/](https://locagiving.org/charity/weston-favell-cent-food-bank/)



Registration at WFC foodbank

In February 2021 we fed 1297 people compared to 458 in February 2020

This amazing and tragic rise is, of course, due to the effects of the pandemic.

The profile of people coming through the doors is changing

to include more diverse groups; in particular people who have been furloughed or have lost their jobs during the pandemic.

People are also experiencing problems with growing debts.

The money advice centre, which is at foodbank on Wednesdays, is beginning to help with these issues. It is not always easy for the foodbank guests to talk to the money advice team.

Admitting that they are in debt and need help can generate

feelings of shame and failure. We understand this but encourage people to come to services like ours so that we can offer them support and advice.

We also have a 'befrienders' team, which operate over the telephone, calling those who are on their own or in a dark place, for a chat. As we discover what their particular problems are we can try to help them, with our support, to map out a route to a more positive future.

Sadly, we expect the need for foodbank to grow over the coming months. We are preparing for this as much as we can. People have been extremely generous throughout this emergency but food donations have almost dried up completely which means that we are buying increasing amounts of food every week.

The supermarkets donations have decreased since Christmas, as have the donations we used to get from the churches since the building has been closed. Hopefully this will improve after 12 April.



The queue outside foodbank

OPENING TIMES FOR FOOD PARCEL COLLECTIONS

Monday
13.00pm-15.00pm

Wednesday
10.00am-13.00pm

Friday
10.00am-12.00pm



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



Growing Together Northampton Holiday Club Coordinator

Salary Grade: £10.20 per hour

Hours: Flexible and not fixed but will be arranged to meet the needs of the provision (but would always be within the hours of 8.30 – 6 Monday to Friday). Full-time working will be required in due course during school holidays, but initially for 2021 as demand for the service becomes established the club may run for shorter days e.g. 10 – 3 or for only part of the school holiday, with working hours being shorter accordingly. Additional hours will be worked to plan publicise and prepare for the club to run.

Growing together Holiday Club Sessional Worker

Salary Grade: £6.56 - £8.91 per hour depending on age

Hours: Flexible and not fixed but will be arranged to meet the needs of the provision (but would always be within the hours of 8.30 – 6 Monday to Friday) For 2021 the bulk of the hours will be in the summer school holidays

Location for both vacancies: Blackthorn Community Centre Longmead Court Northampton NN3 8QD

Closing date for applications 11.4.2021

More details from info@growingtogether.org.uk or ring 01604 411166

Emmanuel Group Finance Report - 2020

I want to begin by expressing my thanks once again for the excellent support given by Finance Team Members during 2020.

Covid 19 had quite an impact on various aspects of Income indices on the Emmanuel Group of Churches 2020 budget.

There were significant losses against the budget due to Covid in 2020 - £30,942 on Lettings, - £8,724 on Giving and - £4,500 on Coffee Shop Rent – this was countered a little by savings on Utilities, due to lack of use of the building.

Despite the problems, I am pleased to advise that we paid 100% of our Parish Share in 2020. We also paid the full Methodist Assessment for 2020.

A great deal of credit in achieving these figures should go to Julie Parsons. She raised in excess of £200,000 in revenue and restricted monies in 2020 which is a staggering amount of money. Without her efforts and the continued amazing generosity of Congregational members and those people not directly associated with Emmanuel Group of Churches, we would not be in the position we are now.

Considering what we have been through in 2020, I feel privileged to have been your Treasurer and to have played a small part in what is a remarkable achievement, to which prayerful thanks should be given and maybe a celebration when we are allowed to be together again.

Our Free Funds stood at £21,460 @ December end 2020

Our Free Funds stood at £733 @ December end 2019

Mike Maddocks – Treasurer – Emmanuel Group of Churches
March 2021

On behalf of everyone in The Emmanuel Group of Churches, I would like to thank Mike for all his hard work, dedication and late nights! Thank you Mike for always going above and beyond what is expected of you!

Liz Bateman

John Jeffreys

Electrical



01604 962055 T / 07903 534833 M



john@johnjeffreyslectrical.co.uk



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DEADLINE

for items for the

June/July

EDITION

of

B.E.R.T

FRIDAY

21st MAY

Please send your
articles and any
other items for
BERT to..

liz@lizzywhizz.biz

or leave items for

BERT

at the church office.

SEE BERT ONLINE

IN FULL COLOUR

on our

website:

www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk



Faxing Service

Sending:

UK & N. Ireland	1st page	1.70
	Following page/s	0.50
Europe & N.America	1st page	2.00
	Following page/s	1.00
Rest of the World	1st page	2.50
	Following page/s	1.25

Receiving:

1st page	0.75
Following page/s	0.05

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A3 Double sided	0.30

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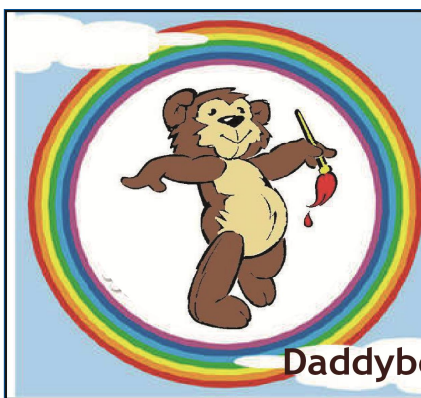
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or visit www.scb-automotive.co.uk

REGULAR GIVING

If you give regularly to the work of The Emmanuel Group, please consider giving via the envelope scheme and, if you pay income tax... 'Gift-aid' it so that we can claim tax back, maximising your gift.

For further information, enquire at Emmanuel church office (next door to our coffee shop) or ask a steward at one of our services.



Stephen Scott

01604 402253

07591 693843

daddybear1973@yahoo.com

Daddybear Face Painting

Northampton Churches News

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH ARE RE-OPENING

OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY CHARITY SHOP

155 Kettering Road, Northampton.

March 29th - Donations will be accepted at the rear door of the Shop via Mount Pleasants' car park, entrance via Cowper Street between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm Monday through until Thursday (doorbell on left of the door)

April 10th - Reverend Paul Lavender has agreed a 'Day of Prayer and Fasting' prior to the probable re-opening of the Shop.

April 13th - Shop will open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10am to 3pm (dependant on current restrictions being lifted)

DONATIONS' URGENTLY NEEDED ARE AS FOLLOWS

Good Quality Spring/Summer Clothing, all ages Male and Female (No winter clothes, thank you)

Bric-a-Brac – Ornaments,

Kitchenware etc

Jewellery

Toys, Games, Jigsaw puzzles,

Working Electrical Appliances

Baby Equipment – Prams, Walkers, Stairgates etc.

PLEASE NO BOOKS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Thank you all in advance

Cath Owen (Shop Manager)

Arrival in Northampton of the Knife Angel – now provisionally

May 1 @ 12:00 pm - June 30 @ 12:00 pm

The Knife Angel is an imposing sculpture made out of knives handed in to the Police or confiscated by Police. The sculpture will be a focal point for exhibitions, debates, action and prayer to tackle violence of any nature In Northamptonshire, especially knife crime, and to spread the love of God.

Start: May 1 @ 12:00 pm

End: June 30 @ 12:00 pm

ENTRY FREE

All Saints Church Northampton
George Row NN1 1DF United Kingdom

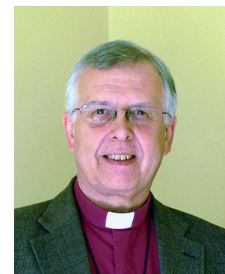
CHRISTIAN RESOURCES NATIONAL EXHIBITION 2021

12-14 Oct 2021

Sandown Park, Surrey

For more details visit: creonline.co.uk

Christ is Risen – Are We?



Bishop Donald

So we enter our second Easter under covid restrictions.

Some of our churches will be open for worship, and others won't. That is a tricky balancing act, and the decision has to be made by each Parochial Church Council, bearing in mind a number of factors.

If your church isn't open, please don't blame the vicar or PCC: they are doing their best in a very difficult situation. If it is open, but you don't feel safe going, find a way to join in corporate Easter worship from your home. If it is open, but with no congregational singing, no kiss or hug or handshake of peace, no communion wine, no coffee afterwards: be grateful that you can be together.

Whether your church building is open or closed at Easter, Jesus is alive, his people the church are alive, and our resurrection hope remains sure and certain.

Over the coming months, as lockdown is released (possibly in fits and starts, very gradually, frustratingly slowly), let's all resolve to know and experience and live out the new life which Jesus brings. How can you and your church be newly alive for your neighbours and your community? What new things should your local church be doing, and how can you contribute to those?

Many of our churches have been a huge blessing to their local communities during the dark days of covid. How can they change gear and bring blessing as we come out of the restrictions? Start discussing that in your church and with your friends!

Many of our clergy and church workers have been working incredibly hard without a proper break. Will your church make sure that the vicar, and others who have given so much, get a really good break this summer or autumn? Why not use online resources for worship to give the vicar a full uninterrupted month off this summer?

Let's really show that we love each other, and our communities, and our spiritual leaders. That could be a sign of the risen life of Jesus among us.

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://emmgroupp.org.uk/contact/>

we will get through this time together, with God

BIBLE READING IN THE PANDEMIC

Increased reading of the Bible during the pandemic is leading to Christians feeling hope in God and a sense of confidence in the future, despite what's happening around them.

The findings come in a survey for the Bible Society, carried out by Christian Research, which found that reading the Bible was making a big difference to how Christians felt.

Forty-two per cent reported that it led to an increased sense of hope in God during the crisis, rising to nearly half (49 per cent) among 45 to 54-year-olds. Some 28 per cent said that reading the Bible had increased their confidence in the future, whilst 63 per cent said that it had enabled their confidence to remain the same, rather than dipping.

'It's encouraging to see that the Bible is giving people hope and confidence,' said Dr Andrew Ollerton, author of *The Bible Course*. 'The Bible has the ability to stand over our circumstances as something solid, a reference point in uncertain times. It's like having felt all at sea, and then having a rock to stand on.'

Twenty-three per cent of those surveyed said that the Bible had increased their mental wellbeing, including 47 per cent of 24 to 34-year-olds. Thirty-three per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds reported that reading the Bible had helped them feel less lonely. 'Mental health is so important,' said Dr Ollerton, 'and the Scriptures are a source of endurance and wellbeing.'

Naomi Campbell is a mother-of-two from Jersey who has been shielding throughout the pandemic due to health issues. She said: 'The verse that has meant a lot to me in all of this is Isaiah 61.3, 'You have given me a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.' "My life has had a lot of challenges, but all the way along, God has given us the opportunity to see his goodness, his creativity in our lives. That verse has stayed with me during lockdown. This verse has been amazing, actually. I haven't been able to be in control of anything during lockdown, and I like to be in control. I like things neat and organised. But this verse tells me that I need to embrace the messiness of life."

Some 35 per cent of those asked were reading the Bible more during the pandemic. The biggest rise was among 25 to 34-year-olds, where more than half (53 per cent) were reading the Bible more often. Though many are still reading print editions of the Bible, others are turning to new technology. Twenty-three per cent are now using a Bible-reading app; 30 per cent are now listening to the Bible, and 25 per cent of 25 to 34-year-olds questioned said that they had begun reading the Bible during Covid.



As well as reading more, people are also turning to the Bible more frequently than before the pandemic. A quarter of those asked, said that they were reading the Bible 'multiple times a day' and half said that they were reading the Bible on a daily basis.

Again, the Bible is proving popular with younger age groups, as 27 per cent of 25 to 34-year-olds and 32 per cent of 35 to 44-year-olds reported turning to the Bible several times a day. Fifty-nine per cent of people surveyed said that they now watched more Bible-related videos or had started watching them.

Bible Society's resources aimed at helping people make sense of the Bible story have become increasingly popular during the pandemic, with many more people using *The Bible Course* online. Zoom courses are happening across the country.

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Course author Dr Andrew Ollerton said, 'The Bible is a big story that makes sense of life and a resource, like *The Bible Course* on Zoom, seems vital now. It's so easy to run and take part and people are just loving it.'

From The Baptist times March 2021



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 26: 20-25, 31-35, Mark 14: 17-21, 27-31
Luke 22: 22, 31-34, John 13: 21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the
Passover meal, Jesus said



John was sitting
next to Jesus, so
Peter said



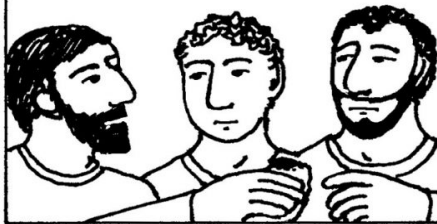
So John asked Jesus



It is the person I give
this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece
of bread in sauce, and
gave it to Judas.



What you are about to do
you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



They continued
the Passover meal



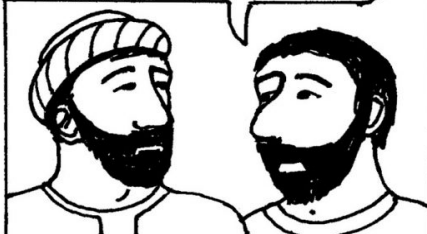
Jesus then told the rest of the
disciples



Peter said



Before tomorrow morning
you will have denied you
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I
will never disown you!





At Tearfund, we often see how broken relationships and injustice can keep people trapped in poverty. But God *is* at work in the midst of the world's chaos, and we can partner with him in transforming and restoring our relationships, communities, and world.

That's why we are so excited to invite you to *The Justice Conference 2021* – a global gathering of Christians who are passionate about living out the message of Jesus and making justice a way of life.

Since 2018, Tearfund has been hosting *The Justice Conference* in the UK. This year, the conference will be online, broadcast on 22 May 2021 from 11 countries over 24 hours.

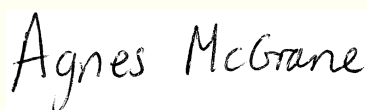
You'll hear from leading speakers from around the world and have the opportunity to join with thousands of Christians as we pray, worship, discuss and take action together.

We have an inspiring line-up of speakers including Danielle Strickland, Krish Kandiah, Lisa Sharon Harper and many more, tackling topics such as racism, poverty and climate change from a biblical perspective. You'll be able to watch all the sessions live, and rewatch on-demand for up to a month after the event.

As well as the main talks, there will be breakout sessions and creative activities to get involved with. **And it's worth signing up soon – if you buy your ticket before the end of March, you'll get our early bird discount!**

We can't wait for you to join us as we dig deep into God's word and get equipped to follow his call to 'do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8).

With every blessing,



PS Make sure to follow The Justice Conference on

TIME OUT

By Shirley Fry

It had to come

This time of plague

We were too vague

On global warming

Ignored the warning

Nor did enough

To rebuff

The profiteers

Too many fears.

What's there for me our constant plea?

No thought of others, our sisters, brothers.

We're in disgrace our human race!

What must we do when this is through?

Be more caring

Be more sharing

This time of testing

and of resting

Reassessing

A time to think

Back from the brink

A second chance

To join the dance

Leave selfish ways.

These precious days

We'll volunteer to do our most

For those who can't we'll shop and post

Keep our distance, smile and wave

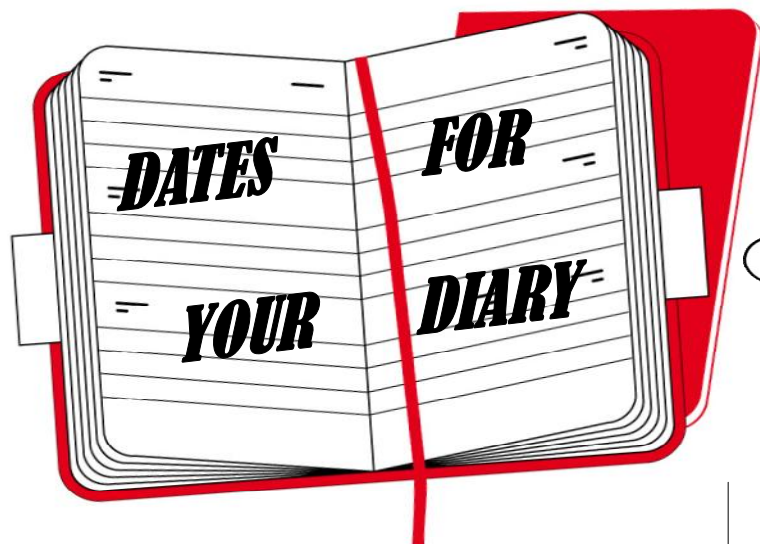
That is the new way to behave

Keep our chins up as we say

"With luck we'll live another day".

And when at last this trouble ends

We'll know the value of true friends.



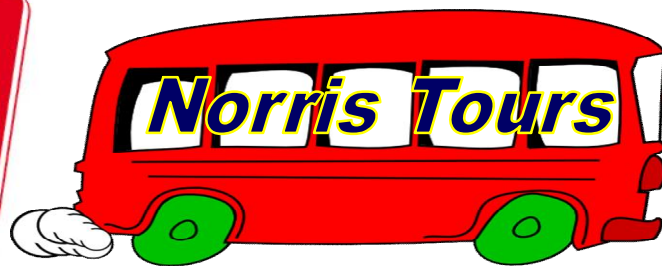
**You can find
Daily Bible reflections
and
'thoughts for the day'
at
[http://emmgroupp.org.uk/
category/bible-reflections/](http://emmgroupp.org.uk/category/bible-reflections/)**

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://emmgroupp.org.uk/contact/>

we will get through this time
together, with God



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

Easton Wall gardens Wednesday May
CANCELLED

Day Trips 2021

**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

No news sheet at present

EMMANUEL GROUP of CHURCHES BILLING BROOK ROAD
 NORTHAMPTON NN3 8JR

THE LORD IS GOOD, A REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. HE CARES FOR THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM.
 Nahum 1:7

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

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.

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 APRIL 2021

Sunday 10.30am	Emmanuel 10.30am	Boothville CC 10.30am	Rectory Farm CC	ONLINE SERVICES 10.30am	 H W O E L E Y K
1st Maundy Thursday 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 17:1-17 31-35				Chris Pearson	
2nd April Good Friday John 18:19-42				Doug Spenceley & Maureen Luke	
4th Easter Sunday 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8	Doug Spenceley + Yvonne Desroches Communion & Baptism	Haydon Spenceley + Maureen Luke Communion		Haydon Spenceley Communion	
11th	Chris Pearson			James Fearnley	
18th Daniel 6:1-10 Luke 6:1-12 Matthew 6:6		Stuart Jenkins + David Bell	Yvonne Desroches + Kristin Hatherly	Henry Martin Alongside	
25th Romans 12:9-21 Luke 10:1-9	Haydon Spenceley + Peter Angus			Pete Squires	

SERVICES IN MAY 2021

2nd Shalom Numbers 6:24-26 Romans 5:1-8	Doug Spenceley + Yvonne Desroches	Haydon Spenceley + Obi Hez	Obi Hez		
9th John 14:23-31 Stepping out and sharing peace through service	Haydon Spenceley + Yvonne Desroches			James Fearnley + Kristin Hatherly	
13th Ascension 7PM Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53	Haydon Spenceley + David Bell	ASCENSION SERVICE 7pm		Haydon Spenceley	
16th Psalm 37 Revelation 5:1-10		Haydon Spenceley + Maureen Luke	Stuart Jenkins	Haydon Spenceley	
23rd PENTECOST	Doug Spenceley	Chris Pearson		Chris Pearson	
30th Trinity Sunday Isaiah 6:1-8 John 3:1-17		Peter Angus	Haydon Spenceley Communion	Peter Angus	

Join us for a short prayer & praise on Wednesdays at 7pm at [www.facebook.comTheEmmanuelGroupOfChurches](https://www.facebook.com/TheEmmanuelGroupOfChurches)

**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.emmgroupp.org.uk**