

B E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & FACTORY FARM TIMES

Practical Woodworking?

I have a set of books about woodwork that were given to me many years ago by a church member. Four volumes of articles from Practical Woodworking magazine, printed in about 1922. The magazine is still published.

I do a little woodwork. I'm not very good, but I can use a plane and a chisel. One of my grandfathers with his two brothers was a cabinet maker all his life. (The youngest was called Bert!)



If I wanted to be good at woodwork, the four books on my shelf would tell me everything I would need to know. Woodworking is described in incredible detail. How to use a saw is discussed over 16 pages with 77 illustrations covering precisely how to guide the saw, how to secure the wood, where to put your feet, how to keep to the line, and afterwards, how to sharpen the saw and set the teeth, including pictures of how not to do it. It goes on in similar detail about everything - workshops, chisels, planes, planing, glue and gluing, rebating, rasps, mortise and tenon joints. There's even a chapter entitled 'Boring tools and their uses'. Not until you reach page 320 are there instructions for actually making something - a packing case and a rabbit hutch amongst other basic items. And this is just volume one of four.

It's a marvel, this set of books, and could only have been written when it was, when woodwork had

stayed pretty much the same since the days of Chippendale, and just before modern adhesives and power tools became available and changed everything. In 1922 they really did know the best way to use a saw or a chisel, because there were two centuries of experience behind them. But now it's hard to keep up with the new techniques that are

possible. 1,500 definitive pages on woodwork will never be written again.

I suppose I have in mind the question of whether the Bible is a book like Practical Woodworking tries to be - definitive and unchanging.

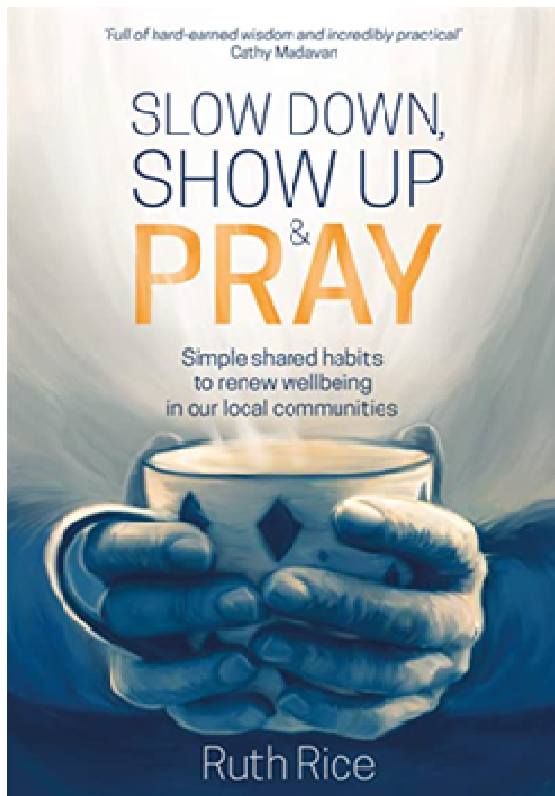
Or is it a book that remains fresh and relevant, even though we change? How does it do that? By using stories?

But I also wonder if my grandparents really believed there were right and certain answers to questions like how you should stand when sawing wood, or how you should conduct yourself in your marriage, or how parenting should be done.

We throw blunt saws away, now. Not so good, to be honest. Do we reject rigid instruction that binds and limits us, but forget deep wisdom that could help us?

Stuart Jenkins

Wellbeing - what is it?



In our house group we have been looking at Ruth Rice's book "Slow down, show up and pray", in which she shares her story of burnout and renewal. Out of her experience was born Renew Wellbeing, a charity which helps set up simple café style spaces attached to a quiet room where inner habits of well being are shared. Emmanuel Group of Churches hopes to launch such a facility under the guidance of Paul Foster, Emmanuel Group's Community Care Coordinator.

Below Lindisfarne Housegroup members share their reactions and conclusions to this book and its concept under 3 headings:

1. How has reading "Slow down, show up and pray" by Ruth Rice helped you to understand a) well-being and b) the work of well-being cafes?

I think there is valuable material here that could help Emmanuel do an audit (maybe annually) on the numerous ways we are involved in holistic Wellbeing. And how renewal can be part of that. It's certainly got me thinking about maintaining the vision and how we might nurture what we already have. Also, about how we might support prayerfully, whole-life activity and ministry through work and everyday life.

'Wellbeing' can be a useful term, especially when talking with community professionals. I'm thinking about any community activity we do that promotes wellbeing; how that activity connects with "Community" in a Kingdom of God sense (our incoming free church minister will be enthusiastic about that); interaction with local health care professionals; opportunities to encourage spiritual development in our neighbours (clients, service users, customers, friends, colleagues, contacts, hirers) through meditation, mindfulness, prayer, prayer ministry, communal worship.

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As I understand it wellbeing cafes are not places for the church to give and others to receive. Everyone is a learner and a teacher

2 Where have you found biblical inspiration during Housegroup discussion and/or recent worship/sermons, eg verse (s), passages which you found helpful?

I approached this course of study somewhat hesitantly, as it wasn't immediately obvious how it tied in with the usual Bible study and sermon theme style to which we are accustomed. However, from the first week I could see value in initially concentrating on our own wellbeing and then on how we individually and as a church can share with others. Stuart's sermon on the importance of the larder in his childhood home (ask someone who was at Boothville to explain!) as a quiet place set me off on

a path of enquiry.

***We looked at** the story of Deborah in Judges 4 as mentioned in the study book on page 47. God called her to a difficult task, which she fulfilled faithfully. She was obedient, courageous and stood firm, true to her beliefs. Ruth Rice talks in her book of feeling inadequate to meet the challenge before her, but succeeded by*

God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.

*trusting in God's strength and not her own Inspiration is sometimes found in unexpected places. One of our group found a greetings card which spoke to them about wellbeing. Its message *There's always time for tea*, with a delightful picture of teatime china reminded them to "slow down" and dwell in the moment. There's that cup image again.*

*Luke 10 38-42, the story of Martha and Mary, encapsulates both Mary's quiet, attentive listening and Martha's service. This story demonstrates one of our recent Sunday themes, *Stepping out and sharing peace through service*. The house group discussion about this passage started with wondering if one sister was wrong and the other right in their behaviour. We concluded by understanding that this domestic scene exemplifies the Christian life: Jesus is present, both Mary and Martha*

are focussed on Him in their differing ways. In James 2 we are told, "But someone will say, You have faith; I have deeds.

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do."

Philippians 4 6-7 I find very powerful: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The group discussed wellbeing in terms of peace and were reminded of John 14, where Jesus promises "my peace, not as the world gives".

3 Are you/Is our church more equipped to join in with the sort of work Ruth Rice describes now that we have undertaken this learning journey together?

My provisional conclusion was that we already do many of the things advocated in the Renew Wellbeing programme (and a great deal more), but that we could be more focussed, and could do them better. I would recommend that we use Ruth's book to create a checklist that we can then apply to any current activity so as to enhance our work and be fully holistic.

(continued on next page)

Wellbeing - what is it?

(Continued from previous page)

This comment from a member followed a lengthy list of the many areas in which Emmanuel people are already involved in the type of outreach envisaged by Ruth Rice.

Sometimes we can fall into listing our worries and woes, the glass half empty approach. When we discussed this, our group came up with a whole host of things which are the opposite, the glass half full, where people, often unassuming individuals, give of their time and energy to contribute to the wellbeing of others. These activities are greatly valued by those who participate, but are not accompanied by any fanfare or vanity, just one person sharing with another.

Ruth Rice gives someone's reaction on hearing about the principle of wellbeing cafes, "O, is that all you mean!" This was not meant to demean Ruth's aim, but to show that the simplicity of getting alongside someone in a shared activity and prayer is something that can bring great blessing.

Conclusion

So, are we any the wiser about wellbeing? At our final house group meeting of this series we welcomed Paul Foster to talk to us and answer questions about the wellbeing cafe he plans to set up at Emmanuel. Judging by the number of questions and contributions from group members it was obvious that people had engaged with this subject and our joint conversation with Paul was an excellent way to conclude our study of Ruth Rice's book, her story and subsequent setting up of so many cafes, now numbering over 40 across the country.

Yes, we feel more informed about the principles behind wellbeing cafes, but more importantly, we are better equipped to be aware of our own wellbeing – the importance of slowing down in God's presence, not doing but being with God.

Ruth Rice expresses it as "dwellbeing", as Christians we "are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."

Hilary Spenceley,
on behalf of our house group.

Congratulations Keith!

A new season begins with my election as a Councillor for Billing & Rectory Farm on West Northamptonshire Council and as the Town Councillor for Rectory Farm on Northampton Town Council.



For over 10 years I have had conversations and thoughts that this maybe the direction I'm being led into. This was the season to respond to that calling and stand up.

I have felt like putty in the Lord's hands, knowing whatever happened I was stepping out in obedience. I am thankful to our Heavenly Father for leading me, guiding me into the new reality I find myself in. There will be many challenges to face but I am not on my own.

I will prayerfully take each step as it comes, allowing Him to shape me and direct me into His plans and purposes in this new season however long it lasts.

Thank you for your prayers; please keep praying for all in authority; that we may all help our communities thrive.

Keith Holland Delamere.



Community Care Update

June/July

I can see clearly now the restrictions are nearly all lifted and things are slowly reopening..

So what's been happening and what's coming up

At **housegroups**, we have been looking at **wellbeing** and in particular a book by Ruth Rice called '**Slow Down, Show Up and Pray**'. This is her wellbeing story and also showing how she started the Renew wellbeing café network.

It is something I have been looking to start up, hopefully in September when things are more relaxed. We think we will run it weekly for a couple of hours, on a Thursday afternoon in the sports hall.

A well being cafe focuses on the three P's. Being Present, Being Prayerful –and Being Partnership.

Being Present, being there every week for those who come. To welcome them and to let them feel involved.

Being Prayerful, there are three short times of prayer, which are completely option for the guests. They are all pre-prepared by Renew and are short meditations to read out and focus on.

Being Partnership, linking with statutory agencies and NHS. I have already contacted social prescribers who works for local doctors' surgeries, and they prescribe things for patients to do, rather than prescribing tablets, and they were very supportive of us running wellbeing cafes.

More details can be found on their website:

<https://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk/> ,

If you are interested in being part of this team please let me know.

One other thing on wellbeing; I am now a trained wellbeing walker through Northamptonshire Sport, and I will be running wellbeing walks, they normally take 45 minutes, starting and ending at our church, They will probably happen on Friday mornings. More details to follow.

I am helping Mell at the new **youth hub** which runs on a Tuesday afternoon for year 7 children from Northampton Academy. It has been a long time in starting, but it is already proving to be very successful.

I have always been involved in upgrading the **wi-fi** at Emmanuel and the foodbank. Julie, our fundraiser managed to get the funding to upgrade it. It is now all finished and we have a 21st century wi-fi throughout all floors.



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

The **money support centre** continues to run on Wednesdays whilst the foodbank is running. In the 18 times we have been there, we have seen 38 people, which is really good. Some weeks we didn't see anyone and other weeks we saw 2/3 people.

We have been tweaking how the money support centre is advertised to those who come into the foodbank. The poster from Edge shows that we offer much more than just money support, we also offer help on mental health, housing and a listening ear.

We have found this has had a huge effect. In the first week that we changed this, we saw six people during the three hours we were running, with a variety of questions that we were able to help with. One person wanted to sign up to a job agency but is deaf. Another was asking about mental health. We were able to support and sign-post these people to the appropriate organisation which was very rewarding.

I want to say thank you to Mary Langley and Pat Acock for helping me out by coming most weeks whilst the original team were isolating.

FISH will be happening throughout the summer but we are looking at alternative places to run it, so I will keep volunteers updated via emails.

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

Paul

David Bell's... Boothville Diary



Back to normal – or nearly

The last entry in my own diary, of Services lead by me, was the 15th March 2021. This was the last Sunday Service to be held at Boothville before we went into lock down.

Between the waves of covid we have managed to have a few Sunday Services and it is important to acknowledge the members of our Church who have worked hard behind the scenes to enable the opening.

At group level there is an 'Opening Committee' which includes John Weaver. They have thoroughly gone through every step to ensure that is physically and legally safe for us to hold services.

At Boothville, a risk assessment was produced and agreed. Members of the church are encouraged to let Mary Langley know that they will be attending. This enables, the correct setting of the chairs (in clusters or individually) with social distancing.

We are then able to attend and experience the services safely. It is of uttermost importance that everyone who attends feels safe.

During the last wave of the pandemic, Joan Bradshaw, one of our members has gone into a care home. We miss her and pray for her well-being.

Future Boothville Diaries will include contributions from other members of our church. This photo was sent to me by Elisabeth Weaver.

The photo shows a group from the past.

All of these ladies have made a huge contribution to the development of Boothville Community Church.

I hope they approve and are happy with the way we are carrying on with their legacy.

Can you spot who they are.?



left to right, Sheila Moore, Rita Austin, Margret Johnson, Joan Bradshaw and June Line.



Social distancing at Boothville

The opening has brought a different format to the services and there are things we cannot do. However, the things that are important, like meeting together as family members of the church, and worshipping together. God's presence is felt through the Holy Spirit in all we do.



Revd Chris Pearson leading our service

Our return to 'normality' is gradual and safe. This is why we felt it important to re-instate the Boothville Diary, to record what we are doing at Boothville

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Remembering Prince Phillip

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's death on 9 April meant that BERT April/May edition had already been printed and with the avalanche of news coverage and features in the world's media you are probably thinking that there is nothing left to say but I encourage you to read on

Prince Philip, as you probably know, was a pioneer of the world-wide environmental awareness movement, and he took his Christian faith very seriously. He didn't always agree with the way the world, or indeed, the church, approached life and challenged religious leaders, scientists, and politicians, with his views on subjects including climate change, about which he was reported as being sceptical, fox hunting which he enjoyed, and driving cars at speed! All three of these examples can be held up as being detrimental to the environment of course!

Whatever your personal views, Prince Philip was an excellent example of someone who used his position in society to raise awareness of the most important issues facing our world .

His duty of service and 'genuine and deep sense of humility' came from his personal and 'sincere' Christian faith, Archbishop Justin Welby said, 'absolutely untainted by false piety, formed and developed by wrestling with great issues. . . He knew who he was, and his faith was central to who he was and how he lived his life. He worked out his call to serve and follow Christ in the context of his own unique calling'. His coat of arms sums up where his help came from.



Prince Philip, started life being baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church in the Old Fortress in Corfu. Later, he attended Anglican services with his classmates and relatives in England and throughout his days in the Royal Navy.

Prior to his marriage to Princess Elizabeth, he was officially received into the Church of England during a private service in Lambeth Palace in October 1947 led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher.

Of his faith, a URC statement said, 'Many who have known the Duke of Edinburgh bear witness to the depth of his faith and his theological knowledge. A regular visitor to Mount Athos, and a keen questioner of preachers, his faith was much more than nominal'.



Mount Athos is a mountain and peninsula in north eastern Greece. It is an important centre of Eastern Orthodox monasticism and home to 20 monasteries.

Prince Philip was described by the John Templeton Foundation as 'a great friend of the Templeton prize for many years'. The John Templeton Prize is awarded annually to a living person for 'outstanding contributions in affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works'.

Prince Philip presented the first award to Mother Teresa in 1973 and continued to participate in a private ceremony for the prize winners held at Windsor Castle or Buckingham Palace.

ARC brokered link He was also well known for his interfaith work which began in the 1980s when his vision was to bring the faiths together with the World Wildlife Fund and all the major environmental organisations. This led to the foundation of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in 1995 at Windsor Castle.

s between the world's major faiths and organisations working on environment programmes. It was also suggested by Prince Philip that the assets of the faiths such as buildings, finance, and purchasing power could revolutionise practical action and engagement with environmental issues. This in turn led to the founding of FaithInvest in 2019 to empower faiths to invest in line with their beliefs and values.

His faith led to action and he is quoted as saying, 'If God is in nature, nature itself becomes divine'. We therefore have 'a responsibility not to harm it, not just for our own selfish interests, but as a duty to the Creator'. How apt in these times when we are more aware than ever about what we must do about climate change (although climate change is something of which Prince Philip was said to be 'sceptical')

A spokesperson for the Anglican Communion said, 'His example of duty and service and of care and concern for the environment and for young people will live on'.

His funeral on 17 April at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle featured some of his best loved words and music. These included the hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, the sailor's hymn, and Psalm 104 which he had requested be set to music by William Lovelady. As the Bishop of Durham said, 'May he rest in peace and rise in glory'.

Liz Bateman

(with quotes from ACE - Association of Church Editors)



We are located in a shop unit in Weston Favell Centre. Our work will continue as long as we have supplies.

The Foodbank is still experiencing a high demand for information and provision. The Edge Centre has been a new service available in the foodbank, offering advice and support to the foodbank guests.

We have seen interest grow for this service, which has a holistic approach targeting support and enabling foodbank guests to move on, to sustain their own lifestyle and promote their own wellbeing.

OPENING TIMES FOR FOOD PARCEL COLLECTIONS

Monday
13.00pm-15.00pm

Wednesday
10.00am-13.00pm

Friday
10.00am-12.00pm



OPENING TIMES For Donations

Monday
10 - 14.00

Tuesday
10 - 14.00

Wednesday
10 - 14.00

Thursday Closed

Friday
10 - 14.00

Over the last quarter the demand for foodbank has been high. The table below shows the last three months figures:

Month	Voucher	Adults	Children	Total
February	441	751	538	1297
March	507	877	532	1409
April	402	682	423	1105

As the pandemic restrictions begin to lift we will be able to offer more support to foodbank guests to help them get their lives back on track. Supporting people to not only survive but thrive is key to the lives of foodbank guests. Mental Health is also a focus for us which will benefit foodbank guests to embrace opportunities moving forward.

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

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 for your support

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

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-foodbank/>

**Thank you
for your support!**

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note the new time:

11.30 am

The service lasts about 30 minutes

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of

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23rd JULY

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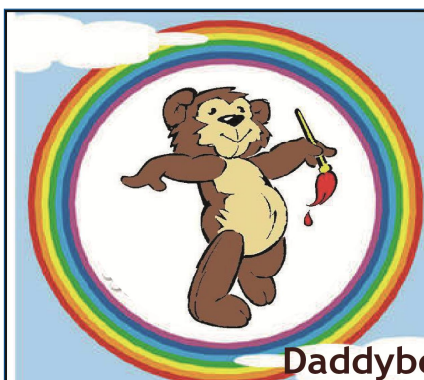
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For further information, enquire at Emmanuel church office (next door to our coffee shop) or ask a steward at one of our services.



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Purpose of the Post

To drive a specially adapted mini-bus to convey elderly and disabled people to different locations within the Borough of Northampton.

It will be your responsibility to: Safely transport passenger from their home to their destinations whilst adhering to the specified schedule for the day. Offer the necessary support and assistance to passengers and help them with their bags and walking aids if required. Ensure all passengers are safely secured in their seats before travel. Liaise with office staff as necessary. Conduct maintenance/safety checks and cleaning of the bus.

See full details and job description at

<http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/post/mini-bus-driver-u2013-northampton-door-to-door-service/>

Tel: 01604 637522

Email: info@voluntaryimpact.org.uk

24/7 help available for those with mental health needs

Countywide Mental Health phone number

0800 448 0828

Please see also below a link through to a page for the countywide mental health phone number.

The number will provide access to mental health navigators, at any time of the day or night.

<https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/mentalhealth-number/>

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Daily Bible reflections
and
'thoughts for the day'
At**

**[http://emmgroupp.org.uk/
category/bible-reflections/](http://emmgroupp.org.uk/category/bible-reflections/)**

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Job Title: Hard of Hearing &

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Responsible to: Team Leader for the Hard of Hearing & Tinnitus Service

Location: Based at Deafconnect and working over all of Northamptonshire

Hours of work: Full Time 37 hours per week

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Note: This post is funded by the National Lottery, until Oct 2023, as part of a 5 year project.

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joanne.wade@deafconnect.org.uk

or telephone 01604 589011, or SMS 07817 006817

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
and with one another.

An Update from Haydon

We are very fortunate as we now have several ministers who regularly contribute to the front page letter for each edition of BERT. Earlier on in the year, Liz suggested to me that I might write a piece for each edition updating readers on things I thought to be of particular interest. Here is the first one of those articles.

It's great news that Rachael Warnock is to join us as part-time Free Church Minister, subject to satisfactory completion of her training at Bristol Baptist College and to a suitable DBS clearance being obtained. Work to fill this position has taken a huge amount of prayer, time and effort on behalf of a good number of people, for which I'm really grateful. I'm looking forward to working with Rachael and I hope you'll join me in praying for her as she finishes her training and prepares to move. The aim is for her to begin working with us in September.

By the time you read this, I hope that a new team member will have joined us for a short term placement. Marion is a German trainee-pastor who has spent the last academic year studying in Scotland and is joining us for the break between academic years. Hopefully between June and August there will be plenty of opportunity for people to meet her, hear her story and for her to find out what we do here.

With the gradual easing of Covid-related restrictions, we have become something of a hybrid worshipping community, meeting in buildings and online. Online services will continue indefinitely. Through June, we'll be meeting fortnightly in each of our in-person gatherings.

In July, the aim is for Boothville to begin meeting weekly, as I think that will best serve those who regularly meet to worship God there. Emmanuel will continue to meet fortnightly through the summer and the aim is for both Emmanuel and Rectory Farm to be weekly at the start of the new school year in September, which might seem some way away, but time seems to be moving by very quickly at the moment, or is it just me? When attending in-person services, unless or until we're told otherwise you'll still need to pre-book.

Allied to the practical details about service plans, the re-opening of Cafe Emm and the developing ways the Church is working to serve the local community, all of which are very good news, I'm aware that it's important that we're kind to ourselves and each other in these days.

The last 15 months have been long, hard and full of a kind of uncertainty that many of us have not faced or been used to before. However long Covid-19 is a dominant element of

our lives, in whatever sense it is, whether as part of our present or history, I know that each person or household will respond differently.

We will rejoice about things that need rejoicing about differently and we'll mourn people and things lost to us differently too. It seems sensible to suggest that we won't know the overall impact to our individual or societal lives for a good while yet and so if you find yourself anxious or uncertain about things, or feeling that things are moving too fast, too slow or somewhere in between, I'd be almost certain you're far from alone. I'm more convinced than ever that there is nothing approaching a one size fits all approach that will work and that as we emerge from the main phase of 'all of this' we ought not simply look to return to 'before' but be looking to the God who is making all things new to see what new things are to be done in, with and through us.

Usually when I write things for BERT, they end up far too long, so I'll sign off while I'm ahead. Be assured of my prayers, as well as my thanks for yours.

Every blessing,
Haydon



Revd Haydon Spencely



Ephesians 4:15-16 (The Passion Translation)¹⁵ But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church.

Dear Friends and Neighbours, I recognise that for many of you we still have not met in person and I prayerfully hope that we will soon be able to do so. Simon and I would like express our sincere thanks to all for being such a welcoming community as we begin to settle into our new home and are enjoying getting to know you and the area around us.

I am looking forward with enthusiasm to seeing what God will reveal to us as we seek to deepen our relationship with him and one another, in this next season to come.

The past year for us, as for many, has not been without its challenges. However, the gifts and blessings have certainly outweighed these. Through the power of God's love and Grace we have faced the challenges and received amazing gifts of friendship, love, support, and much gardening help, from the people around us.

I have certainly valued being part of and contributing to both the online and services in buildings and look forward to sharing this special time together as time goes on.

The regular prayer evenings have been a time of Spiritual nourishment, that have given us time for reflection and an invitation to celebrate what God is doing in our lives as a community, individuals, and Church. It has provided a space, a place to focus, to slow down, show up and pray together.

It is always great to hear and share stories with one another, especially God's story of the love, hope and Joy that knowing Jesus brings. What a gift, if you have not had the chance to hear this, please do contact one of us. We would love to share this with you. Jesus' stories can teach us so much.

I have been very privileged to stroll alongside others, which includes many wheels around the parks! and in doing so I am seeing the examples that Jesus taught being lived out here in so many ways, such generosity

as people share their gifts with others through the 'Food Bank', Befriending Scheme, and Money Advice Centre. This has opened the way to building meaningful relationships and sharing those ever-important stories, what an amazing start to our time in getting to know you all.

Prior to restrictions I was able to visit and enjoy the delicious delights that Café' Emm has to offer. So pleased to be able to visit again this week and meet with people in person once again. A wonderful space with excellent food, that also provides hospitality with a difference, a space that encourages conversation about life, God and all things that matter.

I thank you all for your patience, understanding, prayers and wisdom. I thank you for inviting and including me to journey with you as fellow pilgrims as we navigate the challenges and celebrate the mountain top experiences, listening and growing in our love for God and one another.

Every Blessing sent with love to you all,

Yvonne

(Assistant Curate to the Emmanuel Group of Churches)



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.

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

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

Heaven in ordinary

As we reach June we enter, what in Church circles is often referred to as "Ordinary Time". Wouldn't that be nice?

Nothing seems to be ordinary anymore and we seem to have exhausted our supply of words to describe the "unprecedented" circumstances under which we have been living.

Nevertheless, all being well, this month should see a further lifting of restrictions and some sense that we can 'breathe' again; meet, gather and simply be human with one another once more. There are no grounds for complacency of course and after a year of false dawns and misplaced optimism, it's important that we take small, measured, incremental steps on the path to 'normality'.

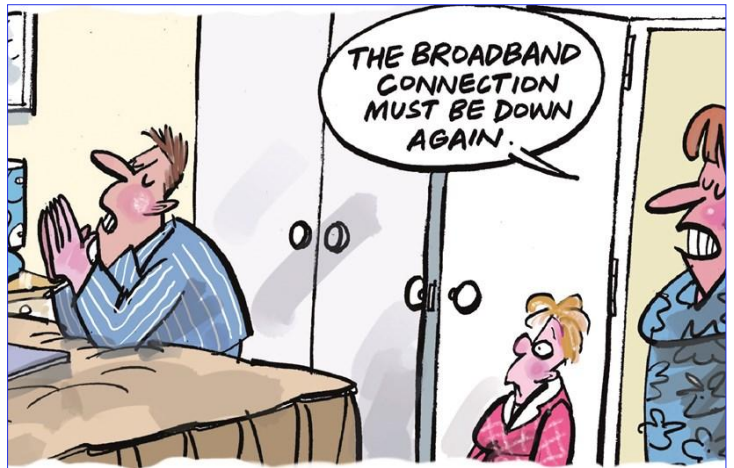
... And for all that we are impatient to recover lost ground, rebuild our congregations, re-engage with our communities, nevertheless we should beware of simply seeking to recreate life before the pandemic. It would be easy to return willy-nilly to the "known" ways, the (allegedly) comfortable certainties of the past. Many of them were perhaps not as life giving or fruitful as we may have persuaded ourselves they were.

There is surely a need as well as an opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities.

Hence this "ordinary" month is actually scattered with the celebration of some extraordinary people who invite us, in their different ways, to consider how the transforming power of Christ is at work in the world.

There is John the Baptist, whose birth we celebrate on 24th June. John called the people of his own day to examine their hearts and minds and lives in the light of the one who was coming after him – soldiers, tax gatherers, the religious leaders were all called to repent, to turn around to face in a different direction and walk in the Way of the Messiah.

There is the Apostle Barnabas, "son of encouragement" who sold his field and gave the proceeds to enable the work of the church;



generous in spirit as well as in material matters who sought to reconcile Jewish and Gentile Christians, affirming that whatever your background we all find our true identity in Christ. What an important message in an age of fragmentation and uncertain identity.

Then on the 28th June we remember Peter, the Cathedral's principal patron saint, who so wanted to please his Lord and Teacher and promised the earth, but who, when the chips were down and his own life at stake, denied he even knew him,and yet, and yet found in Christ such forgiveness and such grace that he would be empowered to boldly proclaim the resurrection, lead the nascent church and ultimately find the courage to die a martyr's death.

Ordinary people made extraordinary by God's grace, who didn't cling to the past but prepared the way of the Lord and sought to live it out in ways of self-sacrificial generosity, simplicity of life and radical forgiveness. Can it ever really be ordinary time with the amazing God we serve?

Chris Dalliston

The Very Revd Christopher Dalliston

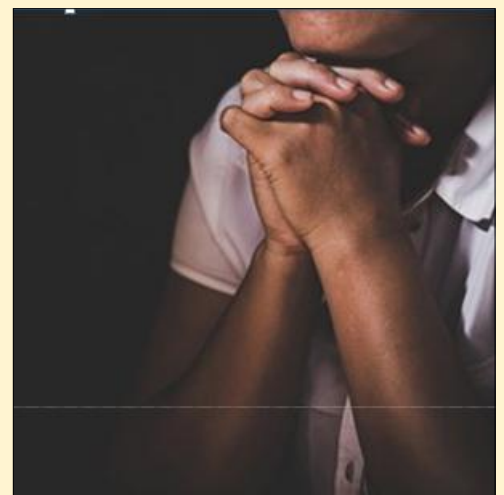
Dean of Peterborough

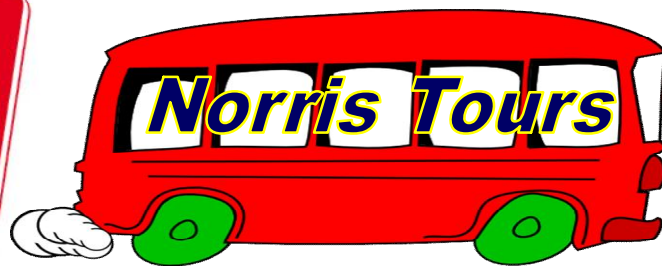
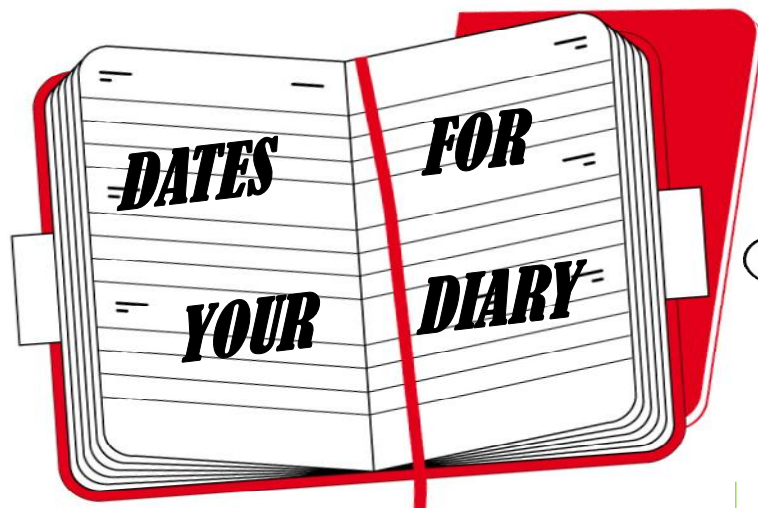
Monday Night Prayer

**Every Monday evening at 7.30pm
meeting via zoom for an hour.**

We pray mostly for our local communities and for our church but also about issues from all over the world and, of course, for an end to the pandemic.

Anyone can pray as they feel led, or you can just be quiet and listen. We find it very encouraging. It is wonderful how much we can feel the Holy Spirit's presence in a zoom meeting!





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

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

The Environment

30 May - 5 June: **Bike Week**

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek>

5 June: World Environment Day

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

8 June: World Oceans

<https://oceanic.global/projects/united-nations-world-oceans-day-2021/>

21 June: World Giraffe Day

<https://giraffeconservation.org/world-giraffe-day/>
(held appropriately on the 'longest' day of the year!)

2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022

NEXT YEAR'S GROUP HOLIDAY

To Weymouth Sat June 11th - Sat June 18th

Cost: £499.00 for eight days

Staying at Berkeley Hotel on the sea front

Includes trips out to:

West Bay (where they made the tv drama Broadchurch).

Monkey World (also televised)

Norden to catch the steam train to Swanage

Poole to catch a ferry to Brown sea island where you can see red squirrels and have a gentle walk.

Beaulieu in the New Forest to the famous motor museum

Palace house & gardens & ride the mono railway, if still running

There will also be two free days to enjoy Weymouth

A wonderful holiday for all!

2022 will be 30th year that Kathy has organised group holidays and trips.

Kathy's has decided it will be the last year that she does it.



The Ministry Team

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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 11.30 am

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 meeting together numbers are restricted you can find daily posts reflecting on Bible readings 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; and 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.

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 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 JUNE 2021

Sunday	Emmanuel 10.30am	Boothville CC 10.30am	Rectory Farm CC	ONLINE SERVICES 10.30am	Communion Every Wednesday at 11.30am
6th Galatians 1:1-12 Luke 6:46-49.	Communion Doug Spenceley + Peter Angus			James Fearnley	
13th Galatians 2:15 21 Luke 8:1-15		Communion Doug Spenceley & David Bell	Haydon Spenceley	Haydon Spenceley Doug Spenceley David Bell	
20th Galatians 3:19-29 Luke 13: 10-17	Communion Stuart Jenkins & Yvonne Desroches			Haydon Spenceley	
27th Galatians 5:1, 13-24 Luke 15:11-31		Communion Chris Pearson & Maureen Luke	Communion Kris Hatherly & Fiona Potter	James Fearnley	

SERVICES IN JULY 2021

4th 2 Cori 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13	Emmanuel 10.30 am	Boothville 10.30am Maureen Luke	Rectory Farm 4pm Yvonne Desroches	ONLINE SERVICES TBA	Communion Every Wednesday at 11.30am
11th Eph 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	Communion Yvonne Desroches + Krissy Cressy	Communion Doug Spenceley		TBA	
18th Eph 2:11-22 Mark 6:30 4,53		Stuart Jenkins + David Bell	Communion Yvonne Desroches	TBA	
25th Eph 3:14-21 John 6:1-21	Communion Haydon Spenceley + Ken Clark	Communion Chris Pearson		TBA	

**And Join us for a short time of prayer & praise on
Wednesdays at 7pm**

[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