

B E E R T

BOOTHVILLE EMMANUEL & FACTORY FARM TIMES

I recently attended a very good seminar on the Biblical subject of 'Lament', something that occurs frequently in the Bible, but which we hear little of today, much less are we likely to practise it. Lament is about grieving for something (or someone) that/who is lost. In Psalm 137 in the Old Testament the Jewish people in exile in Babylon grieve for their precious homeland:

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

*There on the poplars we hung our harps,
for there our captors asked us for songs, our
tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

*How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a
foreign land?*

Then, for an example from the New Testament, in John's Gospel, chapter 11, Jesus comes to the home of Mary and Martha at Bethany, whose brother Lazarus has recently died. Jesus knows that he will raise Lazarus from the dead, but he doesn't just rush straight in. He stops to lament with the grieving sister with that famous shortest verse in the whole Bible, 'Jesus wept'. In our culture and society, we are so conditioned to be quick to find solutions to problems that we have sometimes forgotten how to grieve, and certainly how to lament. We are the poorer for it. Anyone who has lost a loved one will witness that there are no short cuts to bereavement. You can't jump over it or steer round it, you have to go through it, and it will take as long as it takes. That will be different for everyone.

At the beginning of April we come to Easter, arguably the most important festival of the whole Christian year – yes, more important than Christmas. For many years I have always encouraged Church communities to use Easter not as a single event, but as a journey. I have often said that we cannot fully appreciate the joy and celebration of Easter morning if we haven't been through the pain and the grief of the cross. This annual journey is, I believe, a wonderful opportunity for us to rediscover the healing power of lament; of stopping and just sitting in and with the pain rather than trying to gloss over it and move swiftly on to Easter Day.

By Chris Pearson



Let's just remind ourselves; the Easter season really begins on Palm Sunday (this year, April 2nd), the day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Then we mark Maundy Thursday, and at our evening service this year we're planning to celebrate Holy Communion in the context of a meal shared together. (By the time you read this you will have had an opportunity to book your place for this.) This is when we celebrate Jesus' final Passover Supper with his disciples at which he instituted Holy Communion, washed his disciples' feet, and agonised in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then he was arrested and taken off for an illegal nocturnal trial with jumped-up charges.

Good Friday follows; when we focus on the cross and the utter sense of despair that Jesus' mother and friends felt as they watched him hang there, tortured to death. There was absolutely nothing they could do, and we do well to sit there helpless as well, only trusting our utterly faithful God as Jesus finally cries, "It is finished" – not a cry of despair or defeat, but one of final victory as he completed the work that he had come to this earth to do – to provide a way of salvation for each of us.

Continued overleaf

continued from front page

Easter Eve comes next (otherwise known as 'Holy Saturday', but properly not Easter Saturday, which comes a week later). On this day Jesus' body is in the tomb and from our perspective, the joy of Easter Day is just around the corner, but hasn't yet arrived. I never know quite what I should be feeling on this day, and I guess that's how it really should be. It's an uncomfortable day, I find, but it's an entirely appropriate discomfort. And then, at last, we come to Easter Day with all the joy and celebration, the colour, the flowers, and the chocolate, of course!

But to return for a moment to our theme of lament, for us in the Emmanuel Group, most of the past year has been a period of lament. We lost our Team Rector at the beginning of May and have been engaged ever since in the search for the replacement person whom God has chosen and set apart. So far that search has been fruitless, despite repeated advertisements and several applications which have all come to nothing.

At the human level, there appear to be two main reasons for this. Firstly, there is a national shortage of applicants at the moment; the church press has many pages of similar advertisements. The other reason is one which we know has deterred a number from applying. The task here has now become just too massive. We are not looking just for a minister, but for someone who will co-ordinate and manage what has become quite a sizeable business. We have nearly twenty paid employees now, if you include numbers from Café Emm which is technically a separate charity, plus our wonderful army of volunteers. I believe that God is calling us to look strategically at this; we need either to appoint a separate manager for all our important community activities, or we need to trim things down so that we do less, but better. Until one of those things is done, I doubt very much whether we shall attract any applicants, let alone the ONE whom God has called. Please make this situation an urgent daily prayer during your quiet time.

We are, of course, extremely grateful for the commitment and support that we enjoy from so many who together 'keep the show on the road'. It would be invidious for me to mention any particular names, each one is equally valuable and without you, Emmanuel would very quickly grind to a complete halt. Although I have now stepped down from the 'Acting' post the bishop gave me last year, Emmanuel as a whole is still very much on my heart and constantly in my prayers.

May our season of lament for Emmanuel soon be ended, and I wish all our readers a most happy and joyful celebration of Easter when we are reminded once again that 'Christ is Risen!

Chris Pearson.



In addition to personal donations to the Turkey / Syria Appeal, members of the Emmanuel group contributed £346.56 to the work of First Hope, an organisation working on the ground there already.

In acknowledging the gift, their reply says : Please continue to pray for us. Our teams are serving 24/7 in 3 different cities in Turkey and we still have aftershocks every single day.

We are doing our best to reach the affected cities in any way possible; through distribution of clean water, food, and supplies, and through our mobile hygiene trailers, and bakery over 4,000 survivors & relief workers are served daily.

We have also started installing 1,000 family tents, together with beds, blankets & pillows. Thank you for remembering us & for carrying us and our country in your prayers.

Much love & grace, FHA Team

John Weaver

In the early hours of February 6, 2023, two earthquakes killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey and Syria.

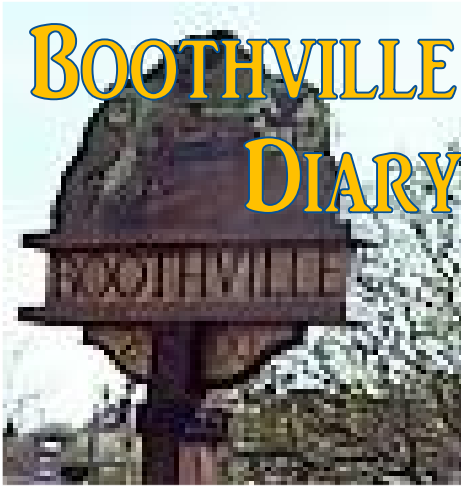
The epicentre of the first earthquake was near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is around 150 miles north of the Syrian border - home to millions of Syrian refugees. The second, just hours later at 1.30pm local time, was further north in the Elbistan district, in central Turkey.

A further 100,000 people were injured following the two powerful earthquakes, which are estimated to have directly impacted 26 million people across Turkey and Syria. There was also a third earthquake on 20 February near the city of Antakya, close to the Syrian border.

Teams sent to help, from Christian organisations and networks of churches from all over the world, have joined together, working through the Turkish First Hope Association.

Praise God, over 7,000 have been safely removed from the rubble but the long term work has now begun as focus has shifted from an emergency rescue operation to providing essential support for survivors who have lost literally everything. Their homes, belongings, livelihoods and loved ones.

Heavenly Father, our hearts are moved by the effects of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The grief felt by families who have lost loved ones, those who have been injured; those who have lost their homes and for confused and frightened children. Please keep them warm in the midst of this harsh winter and provide all they need. May you be for them, an oasis of peace in which to take shelter. We thank you for those providing help and pray for them and their families who await their safe return. We pray that you stir each of our hearts in generosity towards the people of Turkey and Syria. Amen



On February 6th we, at last, had a chance to say a proper 'goodbye' to Doug and Hilary Spenceley.

Doug had been a member of the leadership team at Emmanuel for a number of years but for the last few years his main focus was leading worship and preaching at Boothville. And so, his final service took place here.



Left to right - Precious, Doug, Hilary & Chris

Precious led the service and Doug preached. Following the service, Hilary received a bouquet and Doug, a book. They were also presented with garden vouchers. Thanks to all in the Emmanuel Group for their generous donations.

The Boothville congregation provided refreshments after the service. As usual, there was plenty, both in variety and quantity. We thank Doug and Hilary for all they did for our congregation. We value Doug's teaching and Hilary was always happy to lead prayers, sing or play the piano. They belonged to and often led the house group at John and Elizabeth Weaver's and readily supported church & community activities. They are missed, but, of course, life moves on. We ask for God's blessing on their future ministry.

A big thank to Peter Goodlad who has come out of 'retirement' yet again. Peter stepped in to preach on once or twice after the sad death of David Bell but since Doug left us, has had a regular monthly preaching slot at Boothville. It is wonderful to have him back in this way and are grateful that, with perhaps a little nudge from God, he made the decision to take this on.

At the beginning of Lent, Elizabeth Weaver made a display of pamphlets and booklets which people could take free of charge in the hope that they would be useful for prayer & reflection.



These have also, occasionally been left out for other groups to look at and use if they wish

Bible Journaling Workshop

Precious led a journaling workshop later in February. How many of us have even heard of a journaling bible?

This was an opportunity to reflect on God's word in a more creative way. We focused on a particular scripture.



Some wrote it out and coloured it in while others decorated it. Some made a picture of what came into their mind when focusing on the scripture.

There were lots of wonderful materials to use. The group who came to the workshop really enjoyed it.

It was a quiet and reflective time and an opportunity to focus on God's word in whatever way was meaningful to each of us. We look forward to the next workshop where we hope you will join us.



March 18th was, of course, Mothering Sunday this year. It is a Boothville tradition for the men to provide posies for the ladies that are distributed at the morning service.

Geoffrey Herbert has provided the daffodils for many years, in memory of his wife Elizabeth, who many of us fondly remember. Many thanks to Geoffrey for continuing to do this and to those who help make the posies.

We continue to thank God for his goodness and the blessings he bestows upon our church here at Boothville.

Mary Langley



THANK YOU Baptist Birthday Scheme Members



Many thanks again to those who have faithfully donated to the BMS (Baptist Missionary Society) through the Birthday Scheme. We sent in a total of £218 during 2022.

The scheme has been relaunched with certain changes. Donations now will not just support medical and development work but will also cover other aspects of the work of BMS such as evangelism and church planting, education, justice ministries and relief work. There is now a special page on the BMS website for

Birthday Scheme Members where donations can be made online. BMS wants to have a more direct contact with the members and to send them copies of Engage, the BMS magazine so that they can see their birthday gifts at work.

If you would like to learn more about this scheme please contact me. However I have decided that, after being Birthday Scheme Secretary for many years, now is the time for me to hand it over to someone else. So, if you would be interested in being the church's contact, now being called Baptist Scheme Co-ordinator, please let me know.

Gillian Hill – contact details: gillhill@aol.com or 01604 647611

Rob Hill 13th May 1949 to 19th January 2023

Thank you to everyone who supported us in prayer, practical ways, flowers and cards during the recent illness and then death of Robert. All this support was greatly appreciated and I felt upheld by the Emmanuel family. We also had great support from friends and family



elsewhere too and feel very fortunate to be so blessed in this way. Thanks to those who came to the funeral and those who helped at Café Emm afterwards. I received many positive comments about the singing at the former and the help at the latter.

Some of you will remember when Francis McNutt visited Emmanuel for some special services. At one of these I went out for prayer and had a 'picture' of me being in God's Garden. This picture has been a great help to me at different times in my life

Coincidentally when we were preparing for Robert's funeral we found a short poem (read there by Jonathan) about pain and suffering and then resting in God's Garden. We had already chosen this photo for the order of service and all this came together to assure us that Robert is at peace in that place God had shown me

Gillian Hill

Rectory Farm C.C.

On March 5th 2023 the young people of Rectory Farm Community Church led the worship and the Sermon was from John 6: 35-40
 “Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty”.

Our songs were: The Goodness of God, Be Thou my Vision and The Reckless Love of God. During the service everyone had been given a picture of a loaf...



We were then asked to write on the paper what the Bread of life meant to us. Below are some of the words written:

Take 5 minutes now to think for yourself and write down, what the Bread of Life means to you.

What does the Bread of Life mean to you?		
Life is not complete without God	Happiness	Jesus as lord
Goodness	Food	Sustenance
Joy	Ever present love	God’s grace
His love	Spiritual sustenance	The strength to carry on
Help in time of need	Jesus	Suffering
My sustainer	Father	Feeling of wholeness
To always know God is with you	Friend	Peace
Nourishment for the soul	Source of strength, hope, power, peace and victory	Represents the body of Christ

We thank God for all our children & young people across Emmanuel Group, May God continue to bless them richly. Amen

Fiona Potter



Yvonne & Kris

Kris Hatherly stepped down as Safeguarding Co-ordinator at the end of January.

At the service at Rectory Farm on Sunday the 5th of February, a presentation was made to thank her for all the work she has done for the Emmanuel Group of Churches in this role (and in many other supporting roles).

Kris was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a collection of gifts which included a figurine, a candle, a book, a mug with scripture on it, a bible verse a day calendar and a monetary gift for Kris to treat herself as she wishes..

Rachel Tighe





OPENING TIMES FOR FOOD PARCEL COLLECTIONS

**Wednesday
10.00-14.00pm**

**Friday
10.00-14.00pm**

**Please take any donations
of food to Tesco
Weston Favell or
Emmanuel Church Office**

**The church office is
open**

**Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Friday
10.00 -14.00**

**If you take your food
donation to Tesco they
will add another**

20%

February, saw a very high demand at the food bank, serving a total of 1709 adults and children. This is the highest number of people we have ever distributed food to in one month. The previous highest was in December 2022

February 2023 = 1709 people

January 2023 = 1305 people

December 2022 = 1567 people

Thank you for all your support and donations which have helped so many people in this cost of living crisis.

When we had to move from our shop unit in Weston Favell Shopping Centre. We were in desperate need of a van, as we were working from two sites. One for storage and packing and another for distributing food parcels.

O'Riordan Bond, Local Property Agents, were extremely generous in loaning us a spare van that they weren't using. Since then, they have offered us the opportunity of buying the van at a discounted price



Denise Kennedy and Nish Sadikot, our managers, get the keys to the van from Matt Price.

We are pleased to tell you that we have now raised enough money to buy the van! It would be impossible to run the foodbank from two sites without it and so we are very grateful to O'riordan Bond and other donors: Northamptonshire Community Foundation from their Equans fund; AJMT fund; the Eric Stanton Northampton Trust plus donations through our local giving page.

Thank you all very much for your support to keep us running.

If you have already donated food or given financially to foodbank, or volunteered to help,

We thank you for your support

If you have some time to spare could you offer a few hours to help at foodbank? We are looking for packers, runners, stockroom helpers and people with computer skills. Plus drivers to pick up donations from local supermarkets.

If you are able to offer us some time or would like to know more, pop in to foodbank, or email Simon at:

Info@westonfavellcentre.foodbank.org.uk

07467 074 496

If you prefer to make a financial donation instead of food this can be done via bank transfer to:

Emmanuel Group of Churches

Sort Code - 60-15-55

Bank Account Number - 73955787

Or you can download a standing order mandate from the Emmanuel Church/foodbank website:

www.emmgroupp.org.uk

Or via the Weston Favell Centre foodbank page and follow the local giving link:

<https://locagiving.org/charity/weston-favell-centrefoodbank>

Weston Favell
Centre
foodbank

DONATION LIST

Tinned vegetables	Tinned beans/spaghetti
Tinned fruit	Biscuits
Pasta sauce	Tea/coffee
Curry sauce	Sugar
Tinned or packet soup	Custard and rice pudding
Tinned fish and meat	Toiletries mens and ladies

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY**

Our Foodbank could not exist without our amazing, wonderful volunteers!



We are very grateful to Pet Plan Charitable Trust who have given us a grant of £2000 to ensure that disadvantaged families will be able to feed their pets, keeping them healthy and happy.



Support for pet owners coming to our food bank is invaluable. Donations of pet food will still be much appreciated. Thank you.



John Jeffreys
Electrical

01604 962055 T / 07903 534833 M
 john@johnjeffreyslectrical.co.uk
 www.johnjeffreyslectrical.co.uk

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 for items for the
JUNE/
JULY
EDITION
 of
B.E.R.T
FRIDAY
19th
MAY



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See **BERT** in **full colour**
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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.



"Baby—
basics"
Northampton

NEW Donation Drop Off Point!




Emmanuel Church Weston Favell Centre Church Office

is our newest donation drop off point!
Emmanuel Church has long supported us
and we're pleased to have them
officially re-open as a

Baby Basics Northampton

donation drop off point again
They can accept donations from
10am-1pm on Mondays and
10am-2pm Tuesday-Friday.

The church office is on the
Upper Shopping Mall,
under the library and
through the automatic double doors

An Easter Prayer

By Daphne Kitching

Thank you, Father, that you raised Jesus from the dead on that first Easter Day and that He is alive now and forever. Thank you that whoever believes in Him and turns away from selfish living and towards you can be forgiven through His name. Thank you that Jesus is the same today as He was then and will always be.

Thank you for the Bible – your inspired, unchanging, and living Word to guide us. Help us to hold fast to Your teaching and not to be led astray. Your Word is truth. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord, that we might be Your faithful, fruitful Resurrection People.

In the name of our living Lord, Jesus
Amen.



This is Lena

Please contact her on

07463 464943

for a quotation

on any painting, decorating
or
plastering requirements.

Lena is from Ukraine
and currently living with
Chris and Jo Pearson
who can vouch for her work



We are open 10.00 – 2.00

Monday to Friday.

A warm welcome awaits you at Café Emm. We offer good quality, well cooked food, drinks and home-made cakes at very reasonable prices. Our Special hot dinner days are Tuesday and Thursday - £7 for two courses.

Do pop in for coffee or lunch.

We really would love to see you and your friends and there is always room to welcome one more....



Home made cakes

Mmmm...

NEWS FROM THE CAFE

Since last writing, most of you will know, that Julie Hollingsworth has moved to pasture's new, and we said goodbye to her on 10th February. We were all very sad to see her go and we gave her a good send off. We wish her well in her new job.



Julie joined us in January 2019 as manager, to cover 1 year's maternity leave for Terri Anne. She stayed for 4 years and took the coffee shop into unknown territory during the Covid Pandemic; cooking and delivering hot meals to vulnerable people who were shielding. Meals went to up to 80 homes in East Northampton twice each week.

Since then, Julie undertook to offer Sunday Lunches and Afternoon teas, which were enjoyed by many people, and are sorely missed.

The good news is we employed Sapphire as cook in February, to work alongside Ruth. They are both settling in very well and have been working hard, learning on the job.

Fiona and Kevin Potter have been a great help in coming alongside them. Sapphire has just celebrated her 21st birthday and she is to be married on 25th March. We wish her every happiness in her marriage.

Sue Lack also retired after working part time as a cook for several years. However, she will be around to help from time to time.



The Coffee Shop, and the Church have been very fortunate in securing new grants over a period of 3 years to enable us to offer support to people in the community. This means there are funds to employ a new support worker for Café Emm. This will enable social activities in the café to resume. The advert for this post will appear shortly. Watch this space.

There are also funds for us to restart some of the training of volunteers, Sunday Lunches and Afternoon teas, that Julie had been running. The trustees will be discussing the best way for this to happen at their next meeting.

Café Emm is a very busy place to work and we are grateful that we have several new volunteers. There is still room for some more to lighten the load. We are also still looking for new trustees and a new treasurer. If you know anyone who may be suitable please talk to one of the trustees.



If you haven't taken advantage of our Meal Deal on Tuesdays and Thursdays – 2 Course lunch for £7 per person. Do come and visit Café Emm and give it a try. Looking forward to seeing you.

Maureen Timms, Trustee.

Café Emm is a charity in need of financial support. Any donations will be very welcome.

If you want to donate by bank transfer the bank details for Café Emm are: Emmanuel Coffee Shop
Sort Code – 60-15-55 –
Account Number – 73106291

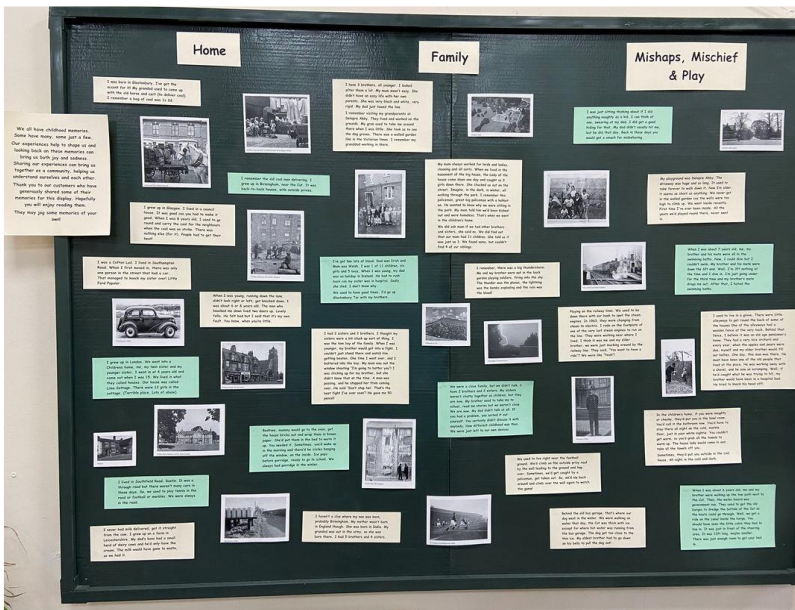
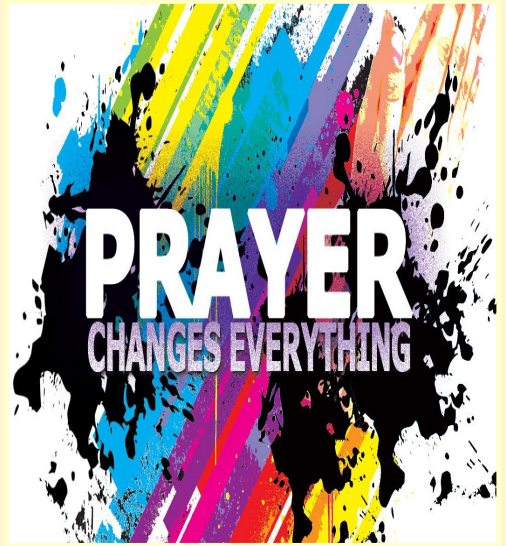
Thank you !

Monday Night Prayer

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

We pray mostly for our local communities and for our churches but also issues from all over the world. Anyone can pray as they feel led, or you can use the time to be quiet, listen and reflect. We find it very encouraging. It is wonderful how much we can feel the Holy Spirit's presence in a zoom meeting

Would you like to join us?
Contact Pip, she would love to send you the zoom link.



Our community café is a charity, doing discrete but important work in supporting people with learning difficulties, dementia and financial difficulties. Pictured above is our memory wall, as an example.

We're delighted to announce that we have received a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund to support this vital community work! A grant over 3 years will help with salaries and with the utility costs for community work at The Emmanuel Group Of Churches, Northampton.

We give thanks for this grant which will make a huge difference to our sustainability and to the lives of numerous vulnerable people in our local area.

Pray for Ukraine

Dear Lord, as we reflect on the ongoing tragedy of the events in Ukraine our hearts grieve. The horrors of this world continue to perplex us and we allow ourselves to ask "How long O Lord, must this continue? How long must your children suffer?"

Loving Father, amidst the tragedy we give thanks for those who have given of themselves so selflessly to help each other. For those who, despite their own loss, have refused to stand by. May they find peace and blessing through their sacrifice.

And Lord, we pray for endurance after a long hard year. Endurance for aid workers. Endurance for those generously hosting refugees. Endurance for Ukraine's leaders. And endurance for all the people of Ukraine
Amen.





What is the Eco Church group?

The group is made up of people that care about the environment. We believe that part of our responsibilities as Christians is to look after all forms of God's Creation and to advocate for others to do the same.

It is at a time of enormous change in the UK with a new King and a new Prime Minister in place. Our environment is also changing around us faster than some scientists predicted, as we've seen with devastating consequences in Pakistan and elsewhere.

Thankfully, we believe in a God who is unchanging, the same yesterday, today and forever, and it is with this framing that we celebrate God's creation and are prompted to act to protect it.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Enjoy Nature

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching, to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or veg or visiting an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK - be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this year.

Save power

Turn off lights when not needed, run your washing machine at 30 degrees, install double//triple glazing or thick curtains, insulate the roof. Don't leave your TV on standby.

What can I do?

Volunteer to be on the Eco Church group. There will be simple Eco changes you can make at home in each edition of BERT. Be more aware of God's Creation and our impact on it and how we can improve it. If you have any ideas or suggestions please tell Rachel Tighe or Rachael Warnock.

More information can be found at

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Fit more active travel into your daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling.

Could you get off the bus a stop early to walk the rest of your journey? Take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group. Whatever you do outdoors - ENJOY!

And don't forget to take your rubbish home with you!

Say no to the mow.

Mowing your lawn less, and letting parts of it grow long, saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact for wildlife, don't mow your lawn or a section of it all until August to help even more animals.

THE 'OTHER' MARY

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus. There is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between these two extremes.

We are not told what the dark cloud was from which she was delivered. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener and explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

What to say to your neighbours at a King's Coronation street party

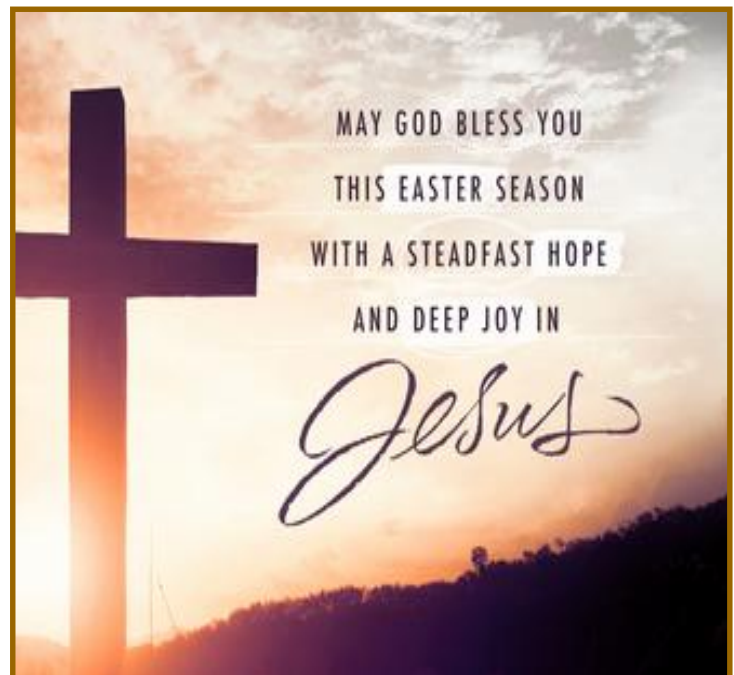
We have all known that awkward moment at a party, when your conversation with a stranger suddenly dries up. But if you are going to one of the King's Coronation street parties next month, you don't need to worry.

An information pack called the Coronation Big Lunch 'conversation menu' has been published, offering 14 handy ideas for keeping the conversational ball rolling. The ideas range from asking your neighbours whether they have ever met a member of the Royal Family, to what is their favourite way to spend a bank holiday. The 'menu' even includes a couple of jokes you can tell, if you get really desperate.

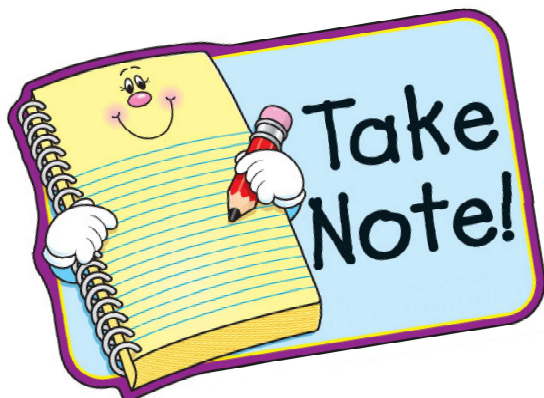
More than a million people, and more than 7,000 street parties and community events, have so far signed up to the Coronation Big Lunch initiative. Buckingham Palace is hoping the celebration will bring neighbours together across the country.

Certainly, chatting with our neighbours is no longer common. One poll from 2019 found that half of us had not chatted over the garden fence or outside our homes in at least a month, while almost one in five of us have never spoken to our neighbours at all. More than 17.2 million people took part in Big Lunch events last June, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Coronation Big Lunch will take place on Sunday, 7th May, the day after the King and the Queen Consort are crowned at Westminster Abbey.



This is our God, The Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him, To bring our lives as a daily offering, Of worship to The Servant King' (Graham Kendrick)



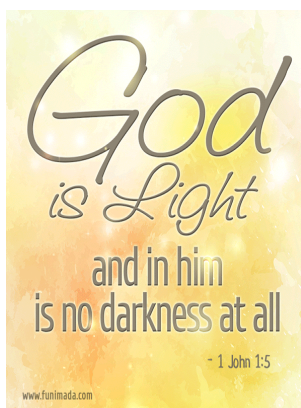
Reflective Mornings

are held at the Methodist Chapel
in Great Billing
on the first Tuesday of the month
10.30-12 noon.
Coffee and Tea at 10.15 a.m.

Different themes or starters are used
followed by a quiet, reflective space and then
the opportunity to share our thoughts.



A time to step aside from the
day-to-day rush of life.



www.funimada.com

United African Association

United African Association provide advice, support, advocacy for and represent the African community. The group promote community cohesion through events, projects and activities that showcase African culture and heritage. Including African drumming, a food bank providing culturally appropriate foods, 1:1 support, signposting to other organisations, befriending services, ladies swimming and much more.

For more information about United African Association or to get involved in any of our activities or projects, we look forward to hearing from you!

Visit us:

Barratt House, Unit F5B, Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton NN2 6EZ

Mail us: uafricanassociation@gmail.com

Call us: 07932 519532 / 07508 417140



The Sandringham Hotel

Weston Super Mare
Somerset

Saturday 15th July 2023 – Saturday 22nd July 2023

Cost: £559.00

Trips included are as follows

West Somerset Steam Railway – Extra £25.00 per person
Glastonbury, Bath, Minehead, Shepton Mallett, Clarks
Retail Park

Two full day out and two half days out.

Double/Twin Rooms only

Please contact: Precious 07941 124159 or Simon
07955517798

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EMMANUEL GROUP of CHURCHES

Billing Brook Road
NORTHAMPTON NN3 8JR

RECTORY FARM COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rectory Farm Community Centre
 Olden Road
 NN3 5DD

Sunday service at 3.45pm (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

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 Group of Churches NATWEST Sort Code: 60-15-55 Bank Account Number: 72882948

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.

Emmanuel Coffee Shop a.k.a. Cafe Emm is part of the Coop Local Community Fund, to find out more about our project and to choose us as your cause, visit:

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/70035>

Then swipe your card whenever you shop. Using the app on your phone is easy and it will remember your cause. This applies to all Co-op stores with the blue logo (NOT the green logo) anywhere in the country. In Northampton, it's these locations:

Bushland Road Coop	Semilong
Bellinge	Rothersthorpe Rd
Birchfield Rd	Upton Place
Olden Road (Rectory Farm)	Old Duston
Barry Road	Pineham
	Wotton Fields



A HOME FOR THE COMMUNITY

Café Emm

Raising money for free food for people in need struggling with the cost-of-living crisis

SERVICES IN APRIL 2023

Sunday	Emmanuel @ 10.30	Boothville CC @ 10.30	Rectory Farm CC @ 15.45	Midweek Communion 11.30am	MID - WEEK C O M M U N I O N @ <u>EMMANUEL OFFICE</u> TOP FLOOR NEXT TO CAFÉ EMM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
2nd	Communion Rachael Warnock	Morning Worship Maureen Luke	Morning Worship Yvonne Desroches + Youth	Weds 5th Yvonne Desroches	
6th Maundy Thursday	Communion Yvonne Desroches + Chris Pearson				
7th Good Friday	10.30am Rachael Warnock	2pm Chris Pearson			
9th EASTER	Morning Worship Rachael Warnock	Communion Chris Pearson	Communion Yvonne Desroches	Weds 12th Yvonne Desroches	
16th	Communion James Fearnley	Morning Worship Yvonne Desroches	Morning Worship Obi Hez	Weds 19th Kris Hatherly	
23rd	Morning Worship Peter Angus	Communion Chris Pearson	Communion Kris Hatherly	Weds 26th Chris Pearson	
30th	Rachael Warnock	Peter Goodlad	Keith Holland - Delamere	Wed 3rd Yvonne Desroches	

SERVICES IN MAY 2023

Sunday	Emmanuel 10.30	Boothville 10.30	Rectory Farm CC @ 15.45	Midweek Communion 11.30am	MID - WEEK C O M M U N I O N @ <u>EMMANUEL OFFICE</u> TOP FLOOR NEXT TO CAFÉ EMM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
7th	Communion Rachael Warnock	Morning Worship Maureen Luke	Morning Worship Yvonne Desroches + Youth	Weds 10th Chris Pearson	
14th	Morning Worship James Fearnley	Communion Peter Goodlad	Communion Fiona Potter	Weds 17th TBA	
18th	7pm Communion Rachael Warnock				
21st	Communion Rachael Warnock	Morning Worship Jo Pearson	Morning Worship Obi Hez	Weds 24th Rachael Warnock	
28th	Morning Worship Peter Angus	Communion Chris Pearson	Communion Yvonne Desroches	Weds 31st Yvonne Desroches	

please visit our website for more information

www.emmgroup.org.uk