

B B O O T H V I L L E E E M M A N U E L & R R E C T O R Y F A R M T T I M E S

How does your garden grow?

In our family you never quite know what topic of conversation will come up next. Recently we were sitting eating together and managed to get onto 'Nursery Rhymes'. This caused me to reflect on the sad fall from grace experienced by 'Jack and Jill', the cracking mess 'Humpty Dumpty' ended up in, and the unfortunate facial remodeling of the maid by the beak of the vengeful blackbird in 'Sing a song of sixpence.'

What got us started down this path? - gardening. Joanna loves painting stones and leaving them in the garden, my mother used to collect sea-shells and paint them. Perhaps you have now guessed where I am going! Mary, Mary quite contrary.

The oldest known version was first published in 'Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book' (1744) with lyrics that are a little different to the popular later version, here is the 'original':
Mistress Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With Silver Bells,
And Cockle Shells,
And so my garden grows.

How does your garden grow? I know some of you have beautiful flower beds, carefully and lovingly pruned shrubs, wonderfully productive vegetable gardens and meticulously manicured lawns. We, on the other hand, are more functional gardeners. I mow the lawns, trim the bushes and Zoe plants and cares for flowers, this is all done with passion rather than with a great deal of skill.

Gardening and agricultural references are common themes in the Bible. We have the garden of Eden and many metaphors about sheep, vineyards, fig trees and seeds, soils and weeds. We often use language of growing and growth as part of our Christian discipleship and inevitability in looking at the congregation size.

Taking that last one first, congregation size can be important, it can also show us trends and factual figures of attendance. What it doesn't show is depth of discipleship - how each person is indeed growing in their Christian faith. Neither does it show the depth of the inner work of the Holy Spirit. What do I mean?

If we take the supernatural and outward facing gifts of the Holy Spirit, for example in 1 Corinthians 12. We see great outer facing gifts of the Spirit in action. But there are the quieter deep works of the Spirit within a person, that over time may develop in a more obvious but less flamboyant (but by no means less important) way. For example, the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. This means that the number of bums on seats is a more limited,

and maybe superficial, measurement tool. At this I will say that it is again a useful but limited guide.

My reflection is that the growth in discipleship is harder to measure. Yes there should be outward signs or Spiritual Growth. Discipleship is something that we take very seriously as part of our ministerial responsibility. The problem with that is of course we (the ministry team) can only do so much. We can tend the soil, try to shelter and support, we can water and feed, in terms



of discipleship, by discerning themes and focuses for discipleship and church life. Backing this up with well-intended teaching and follow up material. Encouragement to pray, special seasonal focuses (lent for example) and supporting home-groups. The real work is done by the Holy Spirit, but everyone has a part to play in tending their own spiritual garden.

I love the diverse ways people in our congregation propagate their own soil. I know some who listen to lots of Christian music, others who read books and others who prayer walk or have taken to reading the Bible in a year. This shows that spiritual gardening is in some ways a 3-person job. The Holy Spirit, your ministry team and yourself. Although I stress again, not split equally. How we allow that to be split up and how we expect to grow are really questions for ourselves to reflect on. So, how does your garden grow? How is your soil?

Allow me to extend this garden metaphor a bit more:

What I love about churches is their variety, a garden full of the same plant may look ok at times when the plan is active. However, when you have plants of different sizes, shades, heights etc, then you have a good garden. I honestly believe that our diversity is our strength, our differences and fruitfulness can vary but planted together are special.

My friends, as we tend our gardens this summer. Let us not forget to tend the spiritual gardens of ourselves and the church, all part of God's glorious garden.

Stewart Betts.

How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

By Fiona Potter - Lay Reader

What a question? Not something I ask myself daily.

However, Rectory Farm Community Church have been following the Alpha course and for Session 11 the topic of the session was the above question.

The Alpha Guide goes through the following points in order to answer the question

1. What should we do?

- a. Break with the past
- b. Make a new start
- c. God has treasures in store for us

The Scripture verse that goes with the above is from Romans 12 v 2 I have taken the Message version Romans 12 v 1-2. Place your Life Before God

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life-your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you”

Changed from the “inside out”. For me God has changed me radically, over a long time, step by step. For some, people are changed immediately, remember Saul who was blinded in Acts 9, and then Jesus sent Anaias to place his hands on him to pray with him to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” Acts 9 v 17.

Not for me, God has changed me over time. A main change I have seen is, I used to be very angry at so many things and flare up, over nothing. Reading scripture, seeing how the Prophets of the Old Testament managed their emotions, and reading how Jesus would react to people around him, made me think and gradually I have learnt to manage my anger. That’s not to say I still don’t have my moments!!!!

2. How do we do it?

- a. Present our bodies Romans 12 V 1
 - i. Time
 - ii. Priorities
 - iii. Ambitions (Matthew 6.33)
 - iv. Money
 - v. Ears

vi. Eyes

vii. Mouth

viii. Hands

ix. Sexuality

b. “As living sacrifices”

c. We will find freedom / There will be a cost / There will be challenges.

The word of God always challenges. I am a list person, I love a good list, tasks, prayers, to do’s, events coming up. Where would I be without a list.

However, I do not have a list of becoming a “living sacrifice”. That sounds scary, so I go back to the verse in Romans: “So, here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday ordinary life-your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life-and place it before God as an offering”.

Give God your everyday life, your daily tasks for Him to use. We can reflect on the current teaching series on Prayer, as an example, by praying for people as a Privilege, as Confessing, as Powerful, as Colourful, being Persistent, God can use each and every one of us to make the most of the rest of our lives to be part of the Kingdom and to bring others into the Kingdom, as they see how we undertake our day to day activities. How amazing is that?

The final sections covered:

3. Why should we do it?

a. What God has done for us

i. In view of Gods mercy” Romans 12 v 1 (NIVUK)

b. What God has planned for our future

i. “His good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12 v 2 NIVUK)

As part of the discussion at the end of the session, we shared testimonies about how Gods mercy, power, presence and might was shown to us through answered prayer, and how as a group we don’t often share these stories. So, to finish I would like to ask you to share your testimonies with each other through BERT. To encourage each other, to tell each other how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit has been present in your life when the outlook looked bleak, hopeless, lacking direction.

If you don’t want to write your own, phone me, tell me your testimony and I will write it up for you anonymously if you wish. Contact details in BERT. The Emmanuel Group has so many testimonies to share let’s see how “God brings the best out of you”



Joy Hayward masterminded the V E Day display of poppies at the cross on Boothville Green

The poppies were made by the Community Centre Craft Group, local residents and Boothville Community Church members.

You are invited to join them in knitting more poppies to complete the display for Remembrance Sunday this year.



The Colours of Prayer

James Fearnley led the service at Boothville on Sunday 18th May.

James spoke on The Colour of Prayer and used these colours to demonstrate different aspects of Prayer. The colours represented: Gold - Divine, Purple - Authority, Blue - Refreshment, Green - Sustenance, White - Forgiveness, Orange - Alertness and Red - Deliverance.

This is also the order in which the ribbons were placed on the cross.



Thanks to Elizabeth Weaver for providing this material for Boothville Community Church Page

Below is the pattern being used to make poppies at Boothville.

Crochet or other crafted poppies are welcome and can be left at Boothville Centre for attention of Joy Hayward.

Thanks everyone.

Even Easier Garter Stitch Poppies

This very simple pattern gives a lovely fluted edge poppy which is firm and not too large.



You will need:

3.75 needles or needles to achieve a nice tight finish

Quantity of red yarn

Button for centre.

BODY OF POPPY

Cast on 70 stitches

Knit 8 rows garter stitch

Rows 9 - 11 knit 2 tog across row

FINISHING

Cut yarn and thread through remaining stitches. Sew edges together to form a round. Sew button to centre .

Or if you want to be creative go right ahead!



This beautiful tapestry was a parting gift to the Boothville Congregation from Revd Yvonne Desroches.

We will miss her and thank God for her ministry among us.

We pray for Yvonne and Simon as they move on to new pastures. For Yvonne's health to improve and for her future ministry.

Councillor Keith

A new era begins. We live in interesting times. I was one of the survivors in the recent elections to West Northamptonshire Council and was also re-elected to Northampton Town Council. I've lost many good colleagues who did not seek re-election or lost their seats and from across the parties and none. Some remain on the Town Council. There is much to reflect on and to do very quickly. Some things will take time. I won't say much here

For me personally I have continued to be called for such a time as this. I will continue to serve the communities I've been called to. One thing I know for certain, I can only do what I do in the strength of the one who called me to this role. At the heart of who I am is a deep understanding that He has my back, He is my all, He is the one who carries me. I'm so glad that I journey not on my own and through this season I've met new people, fellow sojourners on this journey. This is our faith, in our Heavenly Father, our Risen Christ and the wonderful Counsellor who is ever present with us.



We are called to pray for those in authority. We are all humans first, made in the image of the one who made us. This is our faith and I am more certain that, we must never, ever should forget this truth. We won't agree with everyone on everything but I know we must overcome any 'othering', any disrespect to our basic humanity. If we ever forget I dread the consequences. We need to walk together when we need to and challenge more clearly when called to. God bless all who read this. May His peace rest upon us in these interesting times.

Keith Holland - Delamere

Congratulations Keith, on your re - election. Please pray for Keith as he continues, with God's help, to serve his Ward of Blackthorn and Rectory Farm.

Town Centre Praise at Pentecost Saturday 7th June at 12noon

On Saturday 7th June 12pm in Northampton Market Square, a group of Christians of differing traditions are gathering for Prayer and Praise, all are welcome.

Pentecost in the Park Sunday 8th June

At Pentecost, on the 8th June at 1pm, churches are gathering in Abington Park for Picnic and Praise to celebrate the birth of the church over 2000 years ago. Bring your own something to sit on @ Picnic (or three course meal/ five loves and two fish!)





At Emmanuel Church Ground Floor

**FOODBANK IS OPEN ON
Wednesday**

**10.00 -13.00pm
Friday**

10.00 - 13.00pm

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

**If you take your food donation to Tesco
they will add an extra 20%
The church office is open
Monday - Friday 10.00 -14.00**

If you have donated food or given financially to foodbank, or volunteered to help, we thank you for your support

We are looking for packers, stockroom help 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 into foodbank, or email:

info@westonfavellcentre.foodbank.org.uk

07467 074 296

Note: this phone is only monitored on
Mon 9 -12.30, Tues 9 - 3pm, Weds & Fri 9 - 2pm
Outside these times you may leave a message

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 Emmanuel Church/foodbank website:

www.emmgroup.org.uk

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

<https://locagiving.org/charity/weston-favellcentrefoodbank>

We were a bit busier in May at foodbank but down May last year. We are thankful, as always, for our volunteers who make this all possible. Here are a few statistics from May.

Our numbers for this month are

May 2025

675. There were 308 Parcels, feeding 517 Adults and 262 Children.

April 2025

659. There were 265 Parcels, feeding 452 Adults and 207 Children.

March 2025

644. There were 265 Parcels, feeding 451 Adult and 193 Children.

Donations were a little down this month but we also had a drop last May.

Food Donations

1987kg Purchased Food was 296kg and Returns 190.2kg making a total in of 2474.4kg

Food out: Parcels 3414.2kg Extras 823.2kg and 104.7kg other - a total of 4342.1g

Donations covered about 46% of outgoings.

This month the items we particularly would like are:

CURRY SAUCE

PUDDINGS (CUSTARD, RICE PUDDING, JELLY ETC.)

TINNED FRUIT

BISCUITS

UHT MILK

Please support foodbank in whatever way you can. Thank you.

Matthew Kinton

Warehouse Coordinator
Weston Favell Centre Foodbank

FOODBANK PLUS+++ Our Partner services

available on Foodbank days

Community Law Services

Northampton Partnership Homes

Adult Social Services

Rachael Warnock - Baptist Minister

**Thank you for your generosity
and continued support!**



But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20



The daisy is a beautiful flower. It is bright and cheerful and can really perk you up if you're feeling low. Sometimes, people use the daisy to find out if someone loves them. If a boy likes a girl and wants to find out if she likes him too, he might ask the daisy.

As he picks the petals off of the daisy, he says: "She loves me....she loves me not. She loves me....she loves me not." When the last petal is removed, he learns the answer.

Now, if the answer turns out to be "She loves me not," you can always try it again on a different daisy. You can keep on trying until you get the answer you want! Do you think that is a very good way, to find out if someone loves you?

How do we know that God loves us? Do we have to pick the petals off of a daisy and hope that the answer is, "He loves Me!" No, there is a very easy way to know that God loves us. The Bible tells us that God showed his love for us when Jesus, His only Son, died for us on the cross. If someone is willing to die for you, there's no need to wonder if they love you or not. You *know* they love you!

How does God know that we love Him? Does He know that we love Him just because we say we do? Once again, we can find the answer in the Bible.

The Bible says that we show our love for God by loving others. The Bible says we can't say that we love God, whom we have never seen, if we don't love our brothers and sisters that we see every day. It's easy for us to see that God loves us. Is it easy for God to see that we love God?

Dear Lord, we say that we love you. Help us to show you that we love you by loving one another. Amen



All things grow with love at the Daylight Veggie Patch because we are passionate about empowering those impacted by homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion. Service users and volunteers grow together to weed out homelessness and community bringing opportunities for healthier lifestyles, social connectedness, contact with nature and personal development. The fruits of our labour are distributed through our Community Café and busy Food Bank. Any surplus produce is sold, with every penny raised reinvested back into the project, helping our service users to live life on the veg.

Through hands on volunteering, produce sales and wellbeing opportunities, the Veggie Patch plays a vital role in helping people rebuild confidence and routines. With your support we can grow this impact even further,

Visit us: The Pyghtles, Wollaston, NN29 7QD
 We're open Monday to Friday
 (Access allotment via the gate next to the children's play park)
 Find out more or contact us at: daylightcf.org 01933 446490







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for items for the
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Please send
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How to donate to charity without spending a penny!

When buying online, many companies, including big names such as Amazon, Currys, Argos, Boots, Tesco, John Lewis, Asos, Very, B&Q, Dunelm and many more, will donate a percentage of the online purchase price to a charity of your choice.

Obviously we would love your choice of charity to be the Emmanuel Group of Churches, Registered Charity No. 1140504, but, of course, the choice is yours.

All you need to do is register at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and go through this website each time you buy online. You can add an extension to your browser if you wish so that when you search for an item online you get the option to go through the [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) website if the company you are buying from is willing to give a donation.

Whoever you choose to donate to, it is a way of getting large companies to donate and support charities that you are interested in, without any additional cost to you.

Kevin Potter (Treasurer)

See **BERT**
in **full colour**
on our Website:
**emmanu-
elgroup.org.uk**

plus lots of other
information about
our group of
churches

The Rector meets...



Sarah Mc H, Stewart Betts & Jess Cotton

Jess Cotton has been our

Community Projects Director since late October 2023. Playing a big part in the structural and community life of the Emmanuel Group. I have enjoyed working with Jess and really appreciate all that she has done and brought to the role.

SB – Jess, perhaps not everyone knows but not only have you been our CPD for the past 18 months, but you are also a licensed Lay Reader and training for ordination. On top of family life and commitments. How have the past 18 months been for you?

Ha ha. Do I have to answer that?! Busy and intense, and also a joy and a privilege.

SB – In your life and the life of Emmanuel where have you seen God at work in this time?

In every person. In every kind word, in every smile, in every story I hear where we're making a difference in someone's life.

SB – Can you tell us about what you will you be doing in the next 6 months or so?

The plan is to finish college, to be ordained deacon and start curacy, which is embarking on the 2nd stage of my ordained minister training. This part will initially involve getting to know the people, the place and the community and joining in with the life, mission and ministry of the parishes.

SB – What piece of advice might you have for us and for Sarah as she prepares to step into your shoes?

Find a regular rhythm of communication and meeting with the team. Put in clear professional boundaries. Be clear on expectations: from the team, project outcomes and what input you need from the wider organisation. Good luck Sarah! Please be assured of my prayers, and I meant what I said, I'm not going far, please ring if there is anything you need.

SB – Do you have any memorable moments or experiences from your time with us?

That moment in Steering Group when I realised we were no longer talking about fire fighting or crisis management, but we were talking about vision, development and the future world and it felt good. I absolutely loved covering Anna's singing group from time to time. The group are amazing, and I love the inter-generational relationships that are being formed.

SB - Now some standard questions – some random some silly!!

Favourite colour?

Teal

SB - Favourite Hymn / Song?

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

SB - What are you scared of? (spiders the dark etc)

Spiders, especially those with size 9 boots!!!

SB - Favourite food?

Depends on the day and who's cooking. I love a good carbonara or a homemade vegetable lasagne. On a different day steak (medium rare with peppercorn sauce) or a gourmet burger (gherkins are a must).

SB - Coffee or tea?

Tea, medium strength, drop of milk.

SB - Favourite place in UK?

Hmmm, I'm a homebird, so can I say home? I love to be out in nature, so I love the Peak District (Curbar edge is a favourite), the Lake District is a treat, or I love being by the vastness of the open sea (Northam Beach in Devon is a favourite spot).

Sarah McDonald-Howard is our Community Projects Director, who took on the role in May.

Before this Sarah, had worked with the Emmanuel group as a Mission Support worker and working with Youth and families. In these roles Sarah has been an important and valued part of the Ministry Team and Community Team. Sarah has a Methodist background and has recently been accepted to begin training as an Ordained Methodist Minister, this will begin later this year.

SB – Sarah, how long have lived in the area? Of course, the tartan part of me can't ignore a Scottish tint to your name. Can you tell us a little about yourself and how you found yourself here?

We moved into the area last September, so it feels like we're quite settled now. Before that, we were in West Yorkshire in a town called Hebden Bridge – you may know it from the crime drama Happy Valley starring Sarah Lancashire? It's well known for its quirky residents, so we fitted in very well! My wife, Kerry, had started a job down here about 10 months prior to us moving but the commute was too long and very costly, so we decided to move closer. I'm afraid the McDonald part of my surname isn't mine; it belongs to Kerry. Though she's South African, she has Scottish grandparents and came to the UK on an ancestral visa, around 20 years ago.

SB – In your life and the life of Emmanuel where have you seen God at work?

I see God at work everywhere, though often it's with hindsight rather than at the time. I often think that God works hardest in the grey areas of life, when things feel messy and it's hard to find your way. Once you're back on the path looking at how far you've come, that's when you see that God was guiding you all along. At Emmanuel, there were some lovely moments during our Soul Food lent group, and I've really felt God's presence in conversations I've had in some of our community groups.

SB – Can you tell us about what you will you be doing in the next 6 months or so? What will life look like when you start training?

I'm looking forward to getting busier with the community projects over the next few months, and then I start my training in September.

Continued on page 9...

The Rector meets... Continued from page 8

I'll be matched with a local Methodist Church where I'll be based on Sundays, and there'll be some form of academic training too. This is personalised for each student and so for me, they'll take into account that I already have a degree in Theology and Religious Studies. But the exact details aren't confirmed until the end of May. I'll let you know once I know any more!

SB – Emmanuel celebrated 50 years last year, what distinctive things about us have you seen in your time here? *The thing I love most about Emmanuel is the passion and enthusiasm of the church family to embrace their diversity and work hard to draw everyone together. Though I've been a part of many different churches before, I've never worked in a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and I've really enjoyed learning about other denominations and being challenged by those who don't align with any one denomination. It's really made me reflect on what it means to me to be a Methodist.*

SB – This Easter Monday we held a 'breakfast' in the Sport's Hall, how did that come about? What did you do?

As part of my mission support role, I carried out a Mission Review (you may remember me harassing everyone to complete my questionnaire?!) and as part of this, it was important to understand whether there is an appetite for more faith based activities within the community groups we have. The Easter Breakfast provided an opportunity to invite people to come to a really informal gathering, where we ate together – as Jesus so often did, explored the Easter story and chatted about God. It was a really lovely morning with 34 of us gathering together.

SB - Now some standard questions – some random some silly!! Favourite colour?

Blue

SB - Favourite Hymn / Song?

I have two that I really couldn't choose between! The first is And Can it Be? By Charles Wesley and the second is Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, adapted by Sebastian Temple.

SB - What are you scared of? (spiders the dark etc)

I don't like things that move quickly and unpredictably – like mice, snakes and frogs.

SB - Favourite food?

Anything spicy...

Stewart Betts with Jess Cotton and Sarah McDonald Howard

Attendance at C of E churches grows for the fourth year in a row

The overall number of regular worshippers across the Church of England's congregations grew to 1.02 million in 2024, a rise of 1.2 per cent, according to an early snapshot of the annual Statistics for Mission findings.

It was the second year in a row in which the Church of England's 'worshipping community' – the combined number of regular members of local congregations – has stood above a million since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The numbers in the pews on a typical Sunday was up by a further 1.5 per cent to 582,000 in 2024, extending rises over recent years.

And overall, the in-person attendance across the week edged upwards by 1.2 per cent in a year, and stood at just over 701,000 last year, according to the early figures.

The increase was driven by a recovery in attendance by adults (over 16), among whom average Sunday attendance was up by 1.8 per cent, and weekly attendance rose by 1.5 per cent.

While the overall figures show that in-person attendance has not fully reached pre-pandemic levels, the figures suggest it is moving closer to the pre-pandemic trend.

The preliminary snapshot of Statistics for Mission returns follows separate figures which show there has also been a sharp increase in traffic on the Church of England's church-finder website, AChurchNearYou.com.

The number of page visits to AChurchNearYou.com jumped by 55 per cent last year to almost 200 million as people searched for their local congregation.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "The Church of England exists to share the good news of Jesus Christ. So it is encouraging to see further signs that more people are coming to faith in Jesus Christ and having their lives changed.

"Although this is just a snapshot and we don't know the ages of those who have started attending church in the past year, other evidence suggests that many of these are young adults.

Debbie Clinton, the Church of England's Director for Vision and Strategy, said: "Our statistics are much more than numbers, each represents an individual. In 2024 we have heard and seen exciting stories of growth in parishes, in our estates and in post-industrial and coastal towns.

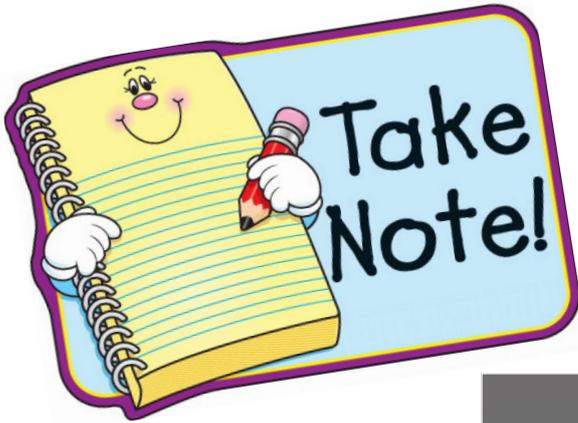
"Nationally we aim to ensure that each young person has a flourishing children, youth and families' ministry within reach of them, we are seeing growth in the number of churches with more than 25 young people attending."

Is your smartphone doing the thinking for you?

Do you rely on your smartphone as a sort of 'extended mind'?

Research in Canada has found that those of us who are less able to think 'intuitively' are especially guilty of getting our high-tech gadgets to do it for us. We use the internet to look for quick answers rather than 'effortful analytic thinking.'

In 2024 an estimated 7.43 billion smartphones were in use worldwide. This represents a significant increase from previous years. In the UK, 94% of people aged 16 and over own a smartphone, equating to around 51.8 million people.



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 10.15am

Family Tots Group

We are a warm and friendly group, with lots of activities and support.
 We call it family tots because it is open to Mum, Dad, Auntie, Uncle, Grandparent, or any other carers to come with pre-school children.
 You can find us in the sports hall next to Cafe Emm at Emmanuel Church every Wednesday.
 Phone 01604 402150 for further information or ask at Cafe Emm

Assembly & AGM
 28 JUNE 2025 | 10 AM TO 4 PM
 TOVE VALLEY BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
 Northampton Rd, Towcester NN12 7AH
BACK TO THE FUTURE:
 Our (extra)ordinary calling & mission
 SPEAKER: **Tim Welch**

There will be bacon sarnies on arrival and an ice cream van later in the day free of charge!

Central Baptist Association 2025 Assembly and AGM is being held on Saturday 28th June at Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship, Towcester. Join us for worship, teaching, bacon sarnies and ice cream!

EMMANUEL

House Groups

House groups are key for pastoral support, fellowship, mission and discipleship. We encourage everyone to join one. If you are interested, or would like to know more, talk to a house group leader or Rachael Warnock.

Leader	Day & Time	Venue
Gill Hill	Friday @ 2pm	Prayer room - Emmanuel Office
Kathy Norris	Monday @ 2pm	Dell Crescent. Overstone Lodge
Precious Luke	Wednesday @ 7.30pm	Ashley Way, Westone
John Weaver	Wednesday 3.30pm	Lindisfarne, Billing Park
Meriel Mears	Thursday @ 1.30pm	Thorplands
Liz Bateman	Wednesday @ 7.30pm	Westlea Road, Sywell

Coffee Morning

Every Thursday at Blackthorn (NN3 8QH)

No need to book, just turn up. Come for a free hot or cold drink. Meet and chat to other people. Ring 01604 411166 for more info. Or Find us on Facebook at Growing Together Northampton

the association for

Church Editors

Member editor 2025

The following article was written for the Sonning Parish Magazine by The Rt Hon, the Baroness Theresa May of Maidenhead who is a member of St Andrew's Church Sonning. Baroness May was Prime Minister from 3 July 2016 to 24 July 2019 and previously served as Home Secretary from May 2010 until July 2016. Baroness May has kindly given her permission to share it with ACE members to use in their magazines.

A wake up call to the world

By The Rt Hon Baroness Theresa May of Maidenhead

If you stop to ask anyone in the street about slavery they would probably tell you it was abolished hundreds of years ago. After all, in the UK the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807 made it illegal to trade in enslaved people across the British Empire and in 1833 the Abolition of Slavery Act ended the use of enslaved labour.

More than that, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in December 1948 states clearly that *'No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms'*. Yet today it is estimated that there are 50 million people in slavery of one form or another around the world. It is happening in every country including the UK. All too often it is hidden in plain sight.

We may speak of victims and survivors, but these are not just victims and survivors, they are individuals. Each one of them has a personality and hopes and dreams which have been cruelly shattered by those who make a profit from them. The slave drivers and traffickers buy and sell people as commodities, whose only value is in the profit they generate.

Scooped up from towns and villages to satisfy the personal or commercial interests of the slave drivers their freedom is cruelly torn from them; they are deprived of their dignity, dehumanised and thrust into a life of misery.

Sadly vulnerability to modern slavery and human

trafficking is increasing. Climate change, conflict, migration, poverty lead to vulnerability to being taken into slavery and/or trafficked into exploitation.

This is a moral stain on our humanity. Modern slavery and human trafficking is the greatest human rights issue of our time. If we are going to end this degrading and inhumane activity, to give people back their freedom and the right to make choices over their own lives we need to act and we need to act now.

After I stepped down from No 10 I worked to establish the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking which I Chair. On 8 April at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) in New York we launched our report with recommendations to the UN, governments, businesses and civil society organisations. The report can be found on the Commission's website

<https://www.modernslaverycommission.org>

This report is a wake-up call to the world. It challenges governments, businesses and civil society to recognise the prevalence of modern slavery and human trafficking and to understand their responsibility to act.

We can reduce the number of people in slavery around the world but to do so we must all play our part including the public. The report is a Call to Action to us all.



Men's Pie & Pint

"Pie and Pint" meet at the Lumbertubs Pub on the 1st Thursday of every month from 7:30pm.

All men welcome.

Contact Paul Foster for more information

Women & Wine



Called Women & Wine, but much more about the food!.. Here's a great time to have a good chat, catch up, enjoy good company, get to know one another better and have fun, no cooking and no washing up!!

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

We meet monthly on a Thursday from 7pm at The Quays. You can get details of upcoming dates and to join our Whatsapp group by contacting Rev Rachael Warnock.

rachaewnock@emmanuelgroup.org.uk



We look forward to seeing you.



A Wonderful Easter at F.I.S.H!

This Easter FISH ran four fantastic sessions at Rectory Farm Community Centre and, for the first time at Emmanuel Church. We were thrilled to welcome 95 children and 57 adults over the course of the holidays!

None of this would have been possible without our amazing volunteers. Your support, time and dedication keep FISH going. strong. Thank you.

We [packed each session with laughter, movement and magic.

Week one—Nicky got us moving with a fun filled disco session. Steve taught us some circus skills—plate spinning was a big hit!

Week two—Just Kate and that twisting guy kept the energy high with dancing, games and a visit from the Easter bunny! We ended with a magical performance from Bubbly Magic, welcoming Steve, who wowed the children.

Each family left with a small, heartfelt gift from Emmanuel Church—including palm crosses and wooden crosses. We're



The children got hands on with scratch art crosses, Holy Week story wheels and sticker activity books. These thoughtful crafts helped us reflect on the Easter story in fun and meaningful ways.



Thanks to Lucy and her team at Cafe Emm, everyone enjoyed tasty hot meals like jacket potatoes, pies and lasagne. Everything was a hit! We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of the FISH project.



A huge thank you to The Rotary Club of Northampton Becket, who once again provided large Easter eggs for all our FISH children. Your kindness makes a big impact.

For more information on future sessions, volunteering opportunities or ways you could support contact Gem. Gemma Broadhead@emmanuelgroup.org.uk 07812 508 711



Singing for the Soul

Singing for the Soul

Every Tuesday from 1:15–2:30pm at Café Emm
Weston Favell Shopping Centre
Northampton NN3 8JR

Come and join us for an uplifting session designed for people living with Dementia, Alzheimer's, Memory Loss, Disabilities. Carers and anyone who loves music and meeting new people.

Music has a powerful impact on the mind, body soul and general well being, so come, experience the joy, connection, and wellbeing it brings!

You can call us on 01604 402150 or 07492 306102
Or email: anna.austin@cafeemm.onmicrosoft.com

Everyone is welcome so come and join in!

TELEPHONE: 01604 402150 or 07492 306102



All at Cafe Emm

Strength & Stretches for Seniors

Gentle exercises by a qualified instructor to help with strength and balance.
Every Monday 12.15—1.15pm at Cafe Emm.
email: anna.austin@cafeemm.onmicrosoft.com
or telephone 01604 402150 or 07492 306102

Please email or call to reserve your place.



Supporting our Community Regular Carers meet ups

Do you care for someone else? Here is an opportunity to meet up with other unpaid carers over a cuppa on a safe friendly environment at Cafe Emm. For more information and dates please contact Anna.
phone: 01604 or 07492 306 102

Do you or anyone you know suffer from Dementia or Memory Loss?

WE CAN HELP!
come and visit our

MEMORY CAFÉ

Supporting people and their carers living with Dementia, Alzheimers or Memory loss

Meet up and chat to others who understand what you are going through in a safe, friendly environment.

Every Monday 1.15pm - 2.30pm at Café EMM
Weston Favell Shopping Centre, Northampton, NN3 8JR.
Email: anna.austin@cafeemm.onmicrosoft.com
Telephone: 01604 402150 or 07492 306102

GAMES GROUP

Our friendly games group meets
EVERY Monday 10:00am - 12:00 noon
at Café Emm,



Grow Cook Eat

Our *Grow Cook Eat* project concluded on a high note with a final presentation celebrating all that our participants achieved. Each individual left not only with a sense of accomplishment but also with a personalised recipe book featuring the dishes they prepared throughout the project. To further support their ongoing cooking journey, each participant selected a piece of kitchen equipment to take home.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **The Hope Centre** for the initial grant that helped to launch this project and to **The Rotary Club of Northampton Beck-et** for their generous food grant.

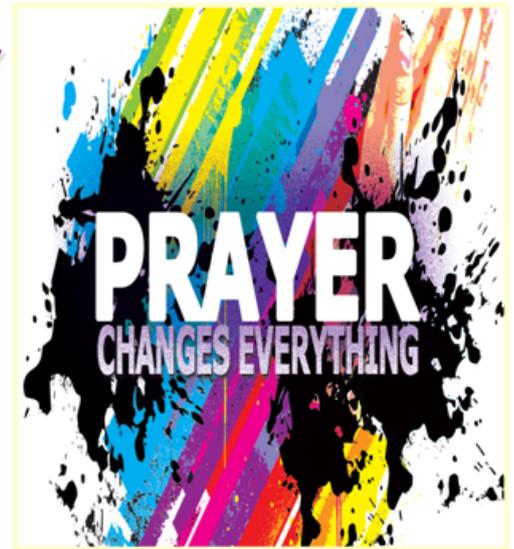
We wrap up this project proud in the knowledge that every participant has grown their culinary skills expended their palates and gained greater confidence in the kitchen.

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, for the zoom link.



I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

(Psalm 116:1,2)

We pray for our leadership teams and those who work with children and young people, for those who manage and care for this building as a gift to our community. May this church be visionary and relevant in all that is good and serve your purposes.

We pray for peace in your world that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples.

We pray for your healing for all those we know who are ill or distressed, in mind, body or spirit. We ask that you give them patience in their sufferings and comfort and relieve them in their need,

God of peace and justice...

We hold before you all the unrest, violence, conflicts and hate in our world. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for your help for those with power over war or peace. That you would grant them wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them from harm.

God of all peoples and nations,

who created all things alive and breathing, united and whole, show us the way of peace that is your overwhelming presence. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you were tried and tempted by the forces of evil. May we never be ashamed of temptation, but save us from the weakness of giving way to it.

Help us choose the way of faithfulness rather than popularity, service rather than fame, sacrifice rather than power. And help us to keep you at the centre of all we do.

We pray all these things in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Amen

Our Ministry Team

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 Revd Chris Pearson 402 150 c.pearson1@homecall.co.uk
 Precious Luke 402 150 precious.luke@emmanuelgroup.org.uk
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Please Note: emails may not be checked outside of these hours

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Website team - Paul Foster, Rachael Warnock, Richard Seaby

B.E.R.T Editor Liz Bateman liz@lizzywhizz.biz

EMMANUEL GROUP of CHURCHES

Billing Brook Road
 Northampton NN3 8JR

www.emmanuelgroup.org.uk

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)

Emmanuel Group Office - Mon - Fri 10 - 2

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

Financially, these are tough times for everyone. Churches and Charities are not exempt from the struggle. If you usually give financially to the Emmanuel Group we thank you for helping us to continue our work in our local communities and schools. We couldn't do it without your support. Please keep giving as generously as you are able.

If you would like to give regularly, you can do this via bank transfer:

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

If you prefer to give another way, you can give online via: <https://localgiving.org/charity/emmanuelgroup/>

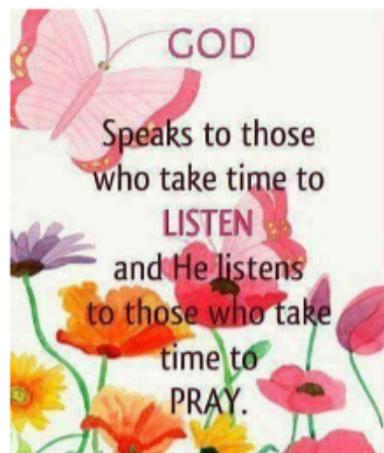
which has the option for single or regular gifts.

Similarly, the Foodbank: <https://localgiving.org/charity/weston-favell-centre-foodbank/>

Thank you

for helping us continue our work in our local communities

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING



All are welcome to join us at the monthly prayer meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, 11 am at Emmanuel in the Family Room. The next meetings will be on June 3rd and July 1st.

SERVICES IN JUNE 2025

Sunday	Emmanuel @ 10.30	Boothville CC @ 10.30	Rectory Farm CC @ 15.45
1st Prayer is Central 1Thessalonians 5.12-28, & Luke 22.39-46	Communion Rachael Warnock	Morning Worship Precious Luke	Alpha Fiona Potter
8th Prayer is Pentecostal Acts 2.1-21 & John 14.8-17	'All Together' Service Stewart Betts	Communion Chris Pearson	Alpha Communion Kris Hatherly
(Father's Day) 15th Prayer is Contemplative Daniel 6.1-10, Luke 5.12-16	Communion Rachael Warnock	Morning Worship Jo Pearson	Alpha Stewart Betts
22nd Prayer is Patient James 4.1-10 & Luke 15.11-24	Morning Worship Stewart Betts	Communion Doug Spenceley	Communion Rachael Warnock
29th Prayer is Communal Acts 2.42-47 & Matthew 18.15-20	Communion James Fearnley & Fiona Potter	Morning Worship Stewart Betts	Time of Prayer and Listening to God

SERVICES IN JULY 2025

Sunday	Emmanuel @ 10.30	Boothville CC @ 10.30	Rectory Farm CC @ 15.45
6th Prayer is Personal 1 Peter 5:6-11 & Matthew 6.5-18.	Communion Rachael Warnock	Morning Worship Precious Luke	Kris Hatherly
13th Prayer is Confident 1 John 5.11-18 & Matthew 7.7-12	'All together' service Stewart Betts	Communion Peter Goodlad & James Fearnley	Communion Rachel Warnock
20th Prayer is Peace giving Isaiah 9.1-7 & John 14.15-31	Communion Stewart Betts	Morning Worship Fiona Potter	Stewart Betts
27th Prayer is Communication Phil 4.1-9 & John 17.1-19	Morning Worship Rachael Warnock	Communion Chris Pearson	Fiona Potter

All information is given in good faith & may be subject to change

Emmanuel Group of Churches

Sponsored by the Anglican Methodist and Baptist Churches
and open to all

please visit our website for more information
www.emmgroup.org.uk