

THE
OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2018 TO
FEBRUARY 2019



Emmanuel Church Sidcup

Methodist and United Reformed

A Christmas Message from Alison

Dear Friends,

Advent is nearly upon us and then Christmas, a busy time of year for all of us with all the preparations, both practical and spiritual. I hope that despite all the busyness we do make time to prepare during the weeks of Advent for the big event, Christmas, the birth of Jesus, God becoming a human being.

My fear is that in all the busyness, I and others will rush through Advent not making time, taking time to prepare to reflect, think about what the true meaning of Christmas is, and if we do that then another danger is that we are unable to resist societal pressure that Christmas is only an opportunity to spend money, to overeat and drink too much.

Christmas is so much more than that, and we lose sight of that so easily if we are not careful. We also need to be aware that many people do not know the Christmas story, for them this time of year is just about presents, family, friends, food and drink. This can increase the pressure on those who for whatever reason feel unable or are unable to share the excitement.

Our preparations for Christmas need to think about how we tell the Christmas story within our families, to our friends and our communities so that the joy and wonder of God becoming a human being is real and meaningful and can be shared by all. After all Jesus was born for all humanity.

Advent - four weeks in which we can prepare for the birth of Christ, Christmas - a day of celebration - God becoming a human being. Yet both have longer lasting effects and influences and as we prepare and celebrate we know that Christ's birth is both an end and a beginning.

Advent gives us the chance to allow the mystery, wonder and surprise of God's action to enter our hearts and minds so that we truly celebrate Christmas welcoming God into our communities.

So may I wish you a reflective Advent, an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alison



MERRY CHRISTMAS
And a Happy New Year
to Everyone

Looking Forward into 2019

As Emmanuel is part of Alison's three Church Pastorate everyone is invited to the Covenant Service at Geddes Place United Reform Church on Sunday January 13th 2019. Geddes Place and Bexley URC have always had a joint Covenant Service. There will be a meal at 12.30 pm followed by a service at 2.00 pm.

Everyone from Emmanuel is welcome. Numbers are needed in advance for catering purposes if you would like to go to the lunch.

The Covenant Service at Emmanuel will be held on January 27th 2019. The Church Anniversary will also be celebrated at the same time.

On January 15th 2019 there will be a post Christmas lunch at Sophie's Choice Restaurant in Sidcup. This is for all three Churches in the Pastorate and everyone will be welcome. The cost will be around £20 per head. A deposit will be needed in advance. It will be good to see people from all three Churches celebrating together and getting to know one another better as another year begins.

If you would like to attend either of these forthcoming meals please let Jennifer or Judith know by December 25th.



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Southern Synod

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Telephone 020 8688 3730 Fax No 020 8688 2698*

Website - www.urcsouthern.org.uk

Christmas 2018

Dear Friends,

A recent survey revealed that one in three children had no idea that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Other religious blank spots included the role of the Archangel Gabriel, with more than a quarter having no idea that Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at her home in Nazareth to say that she would give birth to a son.

As Moderator I rarely get the opportunity to interact with children as I did when I was in pastoral charge. But I was reminded of an opportunity last year when I put my 'teaching skills' to the test. I asked a group of Under 7s some questions about the Christmas story and got some very interesting answers:

Who is Jesus? Jesus was a king and he wore a crown even though he was a baby. It was a really small crown.

Where was Jesus born? He was born in a stable a long way away from here in another country. Bethlehem - it's in England. There were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable.

What gifts did the wise men bring? The three wise men brought Jesus presents of

gold, frankincense and murr. But I think he would have liked some Lego.

Who were his parents? Mary and Joseph and they were very happy with the king's gifts.

Why do we celebrate Christmas? (silence) I believe in unicorns and pixies.

At least one of the answers gave me some hope that what we have been teaching our children and our children's children might have made some impact.

But the answers also made me think about the true meaning of Christmas and the temptation to preach about the need to dismiss all that distracts us at this time of year from the true meaning of the birth of baby Jesus - the presents and cards and turkey and stuff...

For me, the real meaning of Christmas is that God became human like me because God takes human stuff seriously. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God shows me how important all of my life is to him. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God is real, someone 'with skin on to love'. The real meaning of Christmas is that it is all real (unlike unicorns and pixies), that God comes to us in the ordinary stuff of life. God comes to us and to all the world in overcrowded hotels, squealing babies, rough shepherds and wise men with poor navigation skills that make an unfortunate detour to Herod's palace.

It is Luke who records that God comes to ordinary shepherds. He comes to them through angelic choirs and the song of angels moves the shepherds to belief and action because they are prepared to believe and act. They respond to the song by saying: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child."

How will God come to you? Where do you find a manger? In their ordinariness the shepherds check out the stables in this village and come across one with a baby sleeping in it. They meet the Holy Family and share with them their story of the angelic visitation. Then they go and tell others what the angels have told them. They make known what had been told them about this child. The angel's announcement of "a Saviour, Christ the Lord" is spread throughout the area, resulting in amazement in the hearers. We don't know what happened to the shepherds after that. The final scene in this passage finds the shepherds climbing back up the hill to where their flocks lie. The angel had told them what to expect and that's just the way they found it. We leave them glorifying and praising, the appropriate response to this unforgettable night. Because God comes to them, they are changed.

God is with us in all of our Christmases. What will our appropriate response be? Weighed down by all the Christmas hype we may not feel like saying with the shepherds: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child." And that is OK. For in the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, every ordinary person becomes part of the story of God's love. That's the true meaning of Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Be born in us this Christmas.

With Advent and Christmas blessings,

Nicola

Rev'd Nicola Furley-Smith Moderator Southern Synod

AFTERTHOUGHTS

Having recently retired after five years as a Circuit Steward, I offer the following observations for your consideration. Roger May

It was a privilege to serve Christ and his church in this way. It was hard work at times but nearly always enjoyable. I made a lot of friends and took part in some interesting meetings and projects. I was able to exercise some of my skills and I had a lot of help from the rest of the team in those many areas in which I am not competent.

I worked with hugely dedicated people. The Ministers particularly put in extraordinary efforts to keep all the balls in the air. Time and again I was reminded of their deep faith and commitment. Further, in every one of our churches I met lay person after lay person who are living out their faith in many hours of service both there and in their communities. I quickly learned that particularly those called to be church stewards, property stewards and church treasurers are an amazing bunch of faithful Christian soldiers who are often under-appreciated.

I was greatly encouraged by the new initiatives and ventures that several of our churches have established. Mother and baby groups, film clubs, messy churches, services with a difference, linking events and schemes with other churches, lunch clubs and more. Clearly many have grasped the value of 'doing church' in different ways.

I take absolutely no credit for it but I.T. gradually developed in and across our churches during my time. Workshops were well attended and it was pleasing to see improvements in communication and websites. There are certainly even more benefits to be gained in this area if we can harness the expertise.

Similarly the practice of reflection, review and appraisal were encouraged with some success but, not yet, sufficient energy to reap as many of the benefits as could be gained. As a team we tried hard to encourage more strategic thinking across the circuit and within our churches. We were partially successful. Planning ahead, especially in respect of developing our mission, is not yet as fully developed as it needs to be but some of our churches seem to me to be certainly on the right lines.

The overwhelming issue which stood like a dark cloud over my five years was the declining numbers of our membership and adherents locally, across Methodism, and indeed across the large majority of British churches. Some, perhaps most of us, feel that there is an accompanying loss of ethical and moral standards in Britain to such an extent that nothing short of a revival of historic proportions will save the country from disaster. Even if that is not the case it is certainly true that we Christians are charged with improving the effectiveness of our mission. I believe that a lot of the things I have mentioned above, strategic thinking, planning, new initiatives, and, by inference, thinking out of the box and taking risks, are essential. If we simply sit back believing that 'it will all come out alright in the end' we shall see churches closing with the consequent loss of witness in several of parts of our circuit. We have made a start but there are huge challenges ahead.

An important piece of learning for me has been the necessity to go back to our traditional Methodist methods. Structured daily devotion, brave witness, vigorous

preaching, much more lay involvement in leadership, lots of small group meetings and a refreshment of our class meetings. I am not advocating that we revert to over-emotional displays of passion in the pulpit or that we all become over-enthusiastic happy clappers. We need to move with the times. The well educated and thoughtful people we need to attract deserve something better thought through than that. The resources are out there and we have sufficient talent among our congregations to support our Ministers more effectively in this work.

Increasingly I have become convinced that the pattern of church life and of Sunday worship with which I grew up are outmoded and very much less effective. We need new beginnings and new ways but the needs to be met have not changed. People still need to worship, to learn, to develop their spiritual life. People still need forgiveness and good fellowship. People still have emotional needs that the church can supply - to feel secure, to be loved, to be given responsibility, challenges and opportunities to try out new things. People still need encouragement, support and appreciation. People still need to meet their loving, caring, God. We Christians must prepare ourselves in study, prayer and deep thought, roll our sleeves up and go to it,

God bless you all.

Roger M.ay



Christmas Events



Sunday	9 th Dec	10.30am	Christingle Service
		4.00pm	Civic Carol Service (<u>St. Johns</u>)
Saturday	15 th Dec	10.30am	Carols at Morrison's (CTIS)
Sunday	16 th Dec	10.30am	Lessons & Carols
Wednesday	19 th Dec	7.00pm	Carol Singing in the Neighbourhood
Friday	21 st Dec	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday	23 rd Dec	10.30am	Christmas Communion
Monday	24 th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (<u>St Johns</u>)
Tuesday	25 th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day Service (Elders)

Please note there will be no midnight service at Emmanuel

Everyone is invited to come and join us

NHS in the UK v Health Care in Zimbabwe

The NHS is 70. I have never known a world without it and next year celebrate 50 years since I started nursing (though I admit I had 8 years at home having a rapid succession of daughters). With advances in modern medicine expectations of the NHS have grown. Sadly you hear so much in the press about what is lacking about the NHS and rarely how good it is.

I retired in 2017 and, wanting to do voluntary service (as well as wanting to see Victoria Falls), went to Zimbabwe for a month to volunteer in a community clinic on the outskirts of Gweru.

What did I find? The bread basket of Africa has become the poorest country in the world. 85% unemployment. People poach – the animals on the local safari park not for ivory / rhino horn but for the meat. No cattle / sheep though a few goats and no arable land. Just scrub. Many people have nothing. No water from the well as they cannot afford the \$2 a month charge. Most people do find the \$2 electricity charge. There is a fantastic community spirit and they look after those less fortunate than themselves. Everyone grows their own vegetables and sells the surplus. Schools have to feed every pupil one meal a day (fees for school is \$20 a term – not everyone can afford to send their children).

No doctor locally. People paying to visit the clinic (under 5s and over 75s free) eg maternity \$16; \$3 to see the nurse; \$1 for medication – strictly rationed out ie 8 paracetamol at a time; \$1 chronic illness. If you need an ambulance (an estate van with 2 trolleys – no emergency equipment just 2 technicians only trained to deliver a baby) \$15 to take you to a hospital 45 minutes away. One of the midwives still working all her shifts though she had not been paid for 4 months.



One day when the clinic (2 beds for 3500+ births a year – mothers stay for 4 hours before walking home with baby strapped to their backs up to 12km) had no cleaning supplies. We 3 volunteers pooled our money to buy- bleach for cleaning the labour ward; soap for washing hands etc; soap powder for washing the ‘sterile cloths’ to wrap instruments in.

What is free (as directed by WHO) is HIV medication. This small clinic averages about 70 people a day coming for their monthly supplies.



The majority are women as the men generally do not come to clinics. Volunteers spend a lot of time counting out the tablets.

Both staff and patients are generally happy people. The users of the clinic never complain at waits, children sit very well behaved despite no toys – they play with plastic bottles, stones etc in the streets.

I have never seen so many people exist on so little and

be uncomplaining. Working at the clinic was a very humbling experience.

I spoke about this and all the other things I did whilst volunteering last year. I have spoken to the Women's Hour and would like to thank them for the kind donation they gave me for the clinic. I sent them \$101 (£80). They inform me this will probably be put towards a HIV workshop but will let me know definitely when it is arranged. They were very very thankful!

Maggie Williams

Goodbye to Emmanuel

I have enjoyed fellowship with you over the past fifteen years, Your sincerity and love have been with me the whole time. I shall genuinely miss you all.

Peter and I need more support now, which is why we are moving to Bexhill in East Sussex.

I should be delighted to hear from anyone who wishes to contact me.

Best Wishes

Maureen May

I can provide Maureen's address to anyone who wants to write to her.

Ed



Emmanuel Church is excited to bring to the Church again Messy Church!!

"This is a Free, Fun, Family event and will include:
Fun, Food and Worship!!!"

- Where ?** Emmanuel Church Hall,
Hadlow Road, Sidcup
- When ?** Saturday 4pm - 6pm
Next meetings
December 8th Christmas
January 12th New Year
February 9th Love
- Who ?** All ages welcome

We look forward to seeing you all there

"Contact: rogerlatch@btinternet.com 020 8300 5758"

8th September "Jonah and the Whale"

What a wonderful summer we have just had with many long hot sunny days and our team of wonderful Angels were obviously fully rested and reinvigorated with their batteries fully charged as they threw themselves into preparing for the start of our 6th year of Messy Church.

We had 24 children with their attendant parents, grandparents or guardians and what a lovely time they all had at our carefully prepared craft tables.

We always have a "giant" theme whereby we put several tables together and have a large display, this time the outline of a whale, and everyone adds to the decorating of it. Everyone enjoys joining in and we bring the finished article into church to share.

The whale swallows Jonah – test your skill – blue paper cups and cut up plates (the whale), with ping pong balls (Jonah) were prepared so that they could all be attached by threading some wool through them so that one could swing the balls and catch them in the cups - wow!

I have heard of fish cakes but whale biscuits? Spread some blue icing sugar over a biscuit, then form some firm icing into the shape of a whale to put on top and then attach a pink tail and white "spout" finishing off with black icing for eyes

and mouth – yum, yum!

The shape of a whale decorated to satisfaction then cut in half lengthwise and stuck onto a wooden clothes peg so that as you open and close the peg the whale's mouth opens and closes too – it was great to see the children trying to get their whale to bite mum or dad or anyone else.

Weaving Whales? I have heard of blue whales and humpback whales but nevertheless cut up card prepared with the shape of a whale and holes punched in appropriate places was used to weave lots of coloured wool onto, to decorate some wonderful looking whales – even the boys enjoyed doing this.

Jonah's boat was made by sticking lolly sticks on a sheet of paper with a sail and crew all decorated to the children's wonderful designs with rough seas and stormy skies.

Everyone went out to the Green Room at about 5:15 pm to hear the story of Jonah and the whale and to pray for our troubled world before coming back in to the usual magnificent feast which had been hastily laid out.

The afternoon was rounded off by playing the parachute game which the children love.

13th October "Down on the Farm - Harvest"

As our Indian summer continued and the temperature was a balmy 24 degrees many of our Messy flock took themselves off on outdoor pursuits before the weather breaks and autumn finally arrives but we still had 23 children with parents and grandparents and what fun we had. We were celebrating harvest and saying thank you to our wonderful farmers who put such a fantastic variety of foods on our plates.

We had a giant picture of a farm for everyone to personalise with different animals to colour in and stick on and even some autumn leaves for effect. This was displayed at the front of the church.

We made fruit and veg, bunting which is truly beautiful and takes pride of place draped across the front of the church – We hoped the guides and scouts wouldn't knock it down with their flags.

Scarecrows are a familiar sight on many of our farms so we had some wonderful examples for the children to make and take home, even down to having some straw sticking out of their sleeves.

Fruit and veggie printing – cut some fruit or veg., dip in some brightly coloured paint and apply to paper and you have some designs that could be displayed in any gallery.

The children delighted in sticking coloured card on different coloured plates to make the shape of farm animal heads, if you have a bit of imagination – they could be dinosaurs.

Kids love to get messy so we painted their feet with a brush, to loud squeals and giggles, placed the wet feet on some card before washing and drying the said feet. The card then had wheels and bits and bobs stuck on to resemble a

tractor.

We always try to have a foodie table and using rice cakes as a base, icing sugar was applied, a variety of cut up sweets were stuck on and “hay” presto we had some very lifelike pigs, sheep, cows and chickens – I even saw a lion?

Everyone then went out to the Green Room to hear a story, have a sing song and say a few prayers before coming back into the hall to the usual wonderful banquet.

10th November “Remembrance”

As we remember after 100 years since the end of the horrors of WW1 our message was to depict the carnage of war with a giant battle field scene and in contrast our Messy family stretching out their hands of friendship around the church to represent those hands encompassing the whole world to bring about worldwide peace and harmony so that we never again lose much loved family members to war and conflict. Let us help spread love to all nations with all their diverse religions and beliefs.

It was poppies, poppies everywhere to symbolise remembrance and crosses to symbolise the unbelievable cost of the death and destruction that all wars bring.

We made crosses with poppies on, or whatever the children wanted to decorate them with.

We decorated biscuits with poppy icing and sweets which were mostly eaten.

The children could construct their own soldier complete with camouflage uniform.

We had a table of world war memorabilia and a tray with some of these items on it. The tray was covered up and then uncovered for 30 seconds before being covered again and the children had to write down all the things they could remember – great fun.

We had another craft table for the children to design their own poppy on a lolly stick to take home.

We had 34 children with their parents, grandparents and guardians and they all went out to the Green Room to sing a song, to say prayers for our troubled world and to hear a story of love – love everyone – love and respect your neighbour and the message is very simple there can't be any more war.

Whilst they were out the hall was cleared and laid out for our usual magnificent feast of sandwiches, sausages, crisps, fruit and cake. What a wonderful time we all had.

To round the day off we played the parachute game to loud squeals of pleasure and laughter and the children then departed with all the things that they had made, tired and happy.

Once again, a great big thank you to our wonderful band of angels who put so much effort and love into making our Messy Church so successful, Thank you!

Roger

Ladies' Fellowship Hour

Dec 3rd Advent Communion
10th Christmas Lunch and Raffle 1.00pm
17th Carols, Readings and Mince pies

Christmas Holidays

Returning on Jan 7th 2019. Program to be arranged.

Marion

A Prayer For Growth

Whilst visiting Ripley Castle in Yorkshire I visited the 12th century parish church where I found a card with this prayer on it. How appropriate for us at Emmanuel.

God of mission
Who alone brings growth to your church,
Send our holy spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions'
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

Maggie Williams

BEXLEY URC WHIST DRIVES

2nd Tuesday of the Month

2.00 to 4.00 pm in

The Ruxley Room in the Church Hall

£3 for Church Funds

Please contact David 01322 523660



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER

Harold Martin	1968
Beatrice Mary Adams	1983
Kathleen Mary Worrall	1987
Christine Leighton Watkins	1990
Joan Mary Stephen Purry	1994
Margaret Anthony Oatridge	2002
Bert Runacres	2004

JANUARY

Arthur Brinley Davis	1969
Joseph George Kearsley	1978
Lily Oswald	1988
Mabel Brunton	1990
Vincent Sawyer	1983
Gillian Averil Lister (née Huett)	1991
Marjory Treacher	1995
Ernest John Reader	2000
Elsie Runacres	2001
Geoffery Betts	2003
Pat Stephenson	2011

FEBRUARY

Henry Russell Verinder	1981
Maurice Adams	1985
Lillian Thompson	1986
Thomas George Brawm	1956
Rose Brawm	1979
Andrew James Bruce Boland	1979
Edith May Davidson	1985
John Clifford Davidson	1950
Florence Emily Wellman	1995
Elsie Jackson Watson	1999
Agnes Hutchison	2000
Sydney Charles Upson	2000
Evelyn Frances Ellercamp	2002

Support Crisis this Christmas

Crisis was formed in 1967, as an urgent response to the growing homelessness crisis. Since then they have helped tens of thousands of people out of homelessness, and campaigned for change.

Crisis works side by side with people to help them rebuild their lives. From decades of experience of working with thousands of homeless people, they know what's needed to leave homelessness behind for good. They use this experience to shape the services they provide and the changes they campaign for.

Crisis supports people out of homelessness for good. They do this through education, training and support with housing, employment and health.

Crisis offers one to one support, advice and courses for homeless people in 12 areas across England, Scotland and Wales.

Emmanuel is supporting Crisis as our Christmas Charity in 2018. with money from the Christmas Card Tree, Retiring collections from Carols by Candlelight and the Christmas Day service and all monies donated at coffee on Sundays and Fridays during December.

Please give generously to our collections.

Sidcup Horticultural Association

The Association continue their 2018/19 programme of monthly Illustrated Talks by highly regarded guest speakers on the following Tuesday evenings to which you are cordially invited:

20 November	Fifty Greys of Shade	Colin Moat
15 January	The Rose of Martinique	Martin Heard
19 February	Growing Sweet Peas and Cut Flowers	Caroline Halfpenny

The talks are held in the Green Room, Emmanuel Church at 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm). Single attendance for members is £2.00, for non-members £3.00. Notices will be placed in Sidcup Library and a few local shops.

A great opportunity to increase your knowledge and to make your hobby an even more rewarding experience.

Further details are available from Colin Brown, Chairman, 020 8302 6608.

Revised Common Lectionary

Liturgical Date	Calendar Date	First Reading
1st Sun of Advent	Dec-02	Jeremiah 33:14-16
2nd Sun of Advent	Dec-09	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
3rd Sun of Advent	Dec-16	Zephaniah 3:14-20
4th Sun of Advent	Dec-23	Micah 5:2-5a
Nativity of the Lord	Dec 24 & 25	Isaiah 9:2-7
Nativity of the Lord	Dec 24 & 25	Isaiah 62:6-12
Nativity of the Lord	Dec 24 & 25	Isaiah 52:7-10
1st Sun after Christmas Day	Dec-30	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Epiphany of the Lord	Jan-06	Isaiah 60:1-6
1st Sun after the Epiphany	Jan-13	Isaiah 43:1-7
2nd Sun after the Epiphany	Jan-20	Isaiah 62:1-5
3rd Sun after the Epiphany	Jan-27	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
4th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb-03	Jeremiah 1:4-10
5th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb-10	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
6th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb-17	Jeremiah 17:5-10
7th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb-24	Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Lent>
Make sure you get the correct year

Cradle Roll

George Clement will be 4 on Feb 23rd 2019

Happy birthday George !



Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Psalm Reading	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
Dec-02	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec-09	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec-16	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec-23	Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
Dec 24 & 25	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Dec 24 & 25	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Dec 24 & 25	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
Dec-30	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
Jan-06	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan-13	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan-20	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan-27	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Feb-03	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Feb-10	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Feb-17	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Feb-24	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

Harvest

The Harvest service, which was led by Peter Thornton, was held on 14th October. This was a happy occasion and we were pleased that some Rainbows and Brownies and their leaders joined the Guides at this service.

After the service there was a bring and share lunch. Thank you to all for your generous donations - many bags were packed up after the lunch and these were collected by the Manna Society on the Monday morning.

Jennifer

Wath Methodist Chapel, Yorkshire

In October, Tony and I were visiting family in Yorkshire. We went on a beautiful walk in the Nidderdale valley. The walk took us through the village of Wath-in-Nidderdale.

The Methodist chapel in the village is one of the smallest chapels still in use in Methodism, and is listed in the Methodist Heritage Handbook.

It is part of the Church in the Dale Ecumenical Alliance and, as well as monthly services is used for study and quiet days and as a gallery for the Nidd Art Trail. When we visited there were some Prayer Mobiles that had been made at a previous Craft Afternoon.

Although there had been a Methodist Society in the village since 1812, led by “Brother” Jonathan Lupton, the chapel was built in 1859 on the end of a terrace of houses.



The building is very unusual, being an irregular pentagon to make best use of the space available. Indications are that local members who were joiners by trade were involved in the construction though it was designed and built by a firm in Pateley Bridge.

The end wall of the houses forms the rear wall of the chapel with the pews and a balcony. There is a raised pulpit in the opposite corner. The balcony has three benches with the enclosed rear one being for musicians. Above the door there is a date stone inscribed “Wesleyan Chapel 1859” and an octagonal clock face with inscribed roman numerals.



Prayer Mobiles hanging from the balcony

The first preaching plan was dated 1860 and there were 38 members. Rudyard Kipling's grandfather, Rev Joseph King, was once the Minister.

The chapel is listed as a heritage building for "its vernacular detailing and the clever design, making efficient use of a small irregular plot; for the good survival of its interior" and for its "honest architectural modesty, illustrating the contrast between conservative tradition in rural Yorkshire with the more showy mid-Victorian chapels found in urban areas".

This is such an interesting chapel that you really should pay a visit if you are in the Harrogate area. It is always open for visitors.

Judith

Christmas Card Tree



Look out for the Emmanuel Christmas card tree at the back of the church during December. Choose a card (with tie) from the box under the tree, write a message to your friends at Emmanuel, and tie it on the tree. Easy!

If you would like to leave a donation in the box provided, please do so. Money collected will go to this years charity, Crisis.

Thank you *Olive*



Services for December

2	10.30am	Elders	Songs of Praise
9	10.30am	Rev Jacqueline Quarmby	Family & Parade Christingle
16	10.30pm	Mr Peter Thornton	Lessons and Carols
21	<u>7.00pm</u>	Elders	Carols by Candlelight
23	10.30am	Rev Alison Davis	Communion
25	10.30am	Elders	Christmas Day family service
30	10.30am	Mrs Sue Cope	

Services for January

6	10.30am	T B A	
13	10.30am	Mrs Maggie Ayres	Family & Parade
	<u>2.00 pm</u>	Joint URC Covenant Service	Geddes Place (lunch <u>12.30 pm</u>)
20	10.30am	Deacon Maureen Spinks	
	<u>5.30pm</u>	Sidcup Baptist Church	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'
27	10.30am	Rev Alison Davis	Covenant and Church Anniversary Communion

Services for February

3	10.30am	Mr David Ball	
10	10.30am	Mr Chris Price	Family & Parade
17	10.30am	T B A	
24	10.30am	Rev Alison Davis	Communion

Churches Together in Sidcup

Lark in the Park was less well attended than usual, mainly due to the hot summer. There will be a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' service on Sunday 20th January in Sidcup Baptist Church. There will be a tea at 5.30pm.

The service at 6.30pm has the theme 'Justice Only'

Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.30am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. On fine days there may also be a bric-a-brac stall outside. All for church funds.

More volunteers to serve coffee would be welcome.



Sunday Coffee

Coffee will continue to be served in the church after morning service every Sunday.

Donations to Church Funds

Dec	2	Roger & Christine	Jan	20	Roger & Christine
	9	Guides		27	Ethel & Maureen
	16	Ethel & Maureen	Feb	3	Ann & Maryia
	23	Ann & Maryia		10	Guides
	30	Judith & Mandy		17	Judith & Mandy
Jan	6	Pat & Marion		24	Pat & Marion
	13	Pam & Jennifer			

Please Note

The closing date for copy for the **Mar / Apr / May** Outlook will be

Thursday 14th Feb

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please plan ahead and make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar.

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com

Emmanuel Church War Memorials

For several years now it has been traditional for members of the young uniformed organisations to read out the names of all the men listed on the two Methodist and two Congregational war memorials in Emmanuel Church. For the last two years I have shown pictures of these men as their names are being read. Where there were gaps in the photos, a shot of either their gravestone, memorial listing or, at the very least, a photo of the cemetery where they are buried has been shown. This year I was able to show photos of 16 out of 33 of the men listed.

Since the 11th November I have managed to find photographs of another 8 men after a particularly successful day at the local history library in Bexleyheath plus another breakthrough using the Ancestry website. So I now have just 3 from the First World War and 6 from the Second still to find.

Here is a brief story one of the RAF men on the Congregational Church World War 2 memorial. **Sergeant Norman Robertson Macmillan**

Norman was born in Lowestoft, Suffolk in 1919, one of the sons of John Paterson Macmillan and Anne Hood Macmillan (nee Robertson). Norman was a member of the RAF Volunteer Reserve and was based at the Number 17 Operational Training Unit, RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire. This was a training base for new aircrew. On 12th May 1941 he, along with two colleagues, took off on a low level flying exercise from which they never returned. They were flying a Blenheim IV No. V5391 and the report said:-

“T/o [take off] Upwood for low-level flying exercise at less than 250 feet. Lost without a trace, but believed to have crashed in the sea.”

Norman was just 21. Those on board were:

Sgt (971753) Kenyon Charles BELTON (pilot) RAFVR - killed

Sgt (957267) Norman Robertson MACMILLAN (obs) RAFVR – killed

Sgt (945410) William HUNTER (Wop/AG) RAFVR - killed

The family waited many years in the vain hope that Norman might re-emerge from a prison camp after the war. When that failed to happen, they still clung to the hope that he might just have lost his memory due to an injury and that one day he might, just might, reappear. Norman was never found and so his name appears on the RAF memorial at Runnymede.

Norman had a long-term girlfriend to whom he planned to propose, but of course that plan was cut short. His prospective fiancée was a young lady called Audrey who lived in Lowestoft. The family kept in touch with Audrey for the rest of her life and visited her when in the area. It is believed that Audrey never married.

Until now it was unclear why Norman appeared on our memorial tablet, but it has come to light that he was the first cousin of Thomas Gordon McGill who lived at number 40 Willersley Avenue. Thomas's mother and Norman's father were siblings. Sadly, Thomas also appears on our memorial. He was a captain in the Royal Engineers and was the same age as Norman, and also died in 1941.

Philip Willson



Sergeant Norman Robertson Macmillan

Remembrance Day 2018

It was good to see so many people in church on Remembrance Day. This year, which has commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of WW I, has been very poignant. We were so pleased to see so many young people worshipping with us, especially the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts as well as the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from the uniformed organisations of our church.

The theme of Messy Church on the day before had been "Remembrance". Children who had been at Messy Church were invited to come out to the front and tell everyone what they had enjoyed doing there.

The church was full as we all paid our respects and remembered those killed in the wars, particularly those whose names are on our war memorials, some of whose pictures were shown as their names were read out.

It was a very moving Act of Remembrance.

Judith

Pastoral News

Congratulations to Doris Willson on Celebrating her 100th Birthday



My Mum, Doris Willson, reached the grand old age of 100 on 7th November. She had a lovely day at home where she received cards from family, friends and, of course, Her Majesty the Queen. A group of 9 well-wishers from Emmanuel, led by Peter Thornton, visited during the morning to sing Happy Birthday - which she really enjoyed.

On the following Saturday we had a family party in her honour. A grand total of 21 people squeezed into her flat and she had a lovely time.

Philip, number 1 son

She is seen here with her great grandson Louis, 4½ months.

We keep in our thoughts people who are in care homes; Doris Parkin and Josie Corcoran, in Northbourne Court and Lorna New in St. Margaret's.

Continue to pray for Iris Wood and Dorothy Limeburner.

Although they are not able to get to Church at the moment our thoughts are with them.

Maureen May has now moved to Bexhill on Sea. We hope she will be very happy in her new home by the sea. We will certainly miss her at Emmanuel.

I have her address if anyone wishes to write to her

Ed



Happy 90th Birthday to Freda Skinner



On 30th December Freda will be 90 years old.

On Saturday 29th December there will be
a Birthday Party for Freda

in the Church Hall from 12 to 3 pm.

We wish Freda Many Happy Returns and a wonderful celebration.

Congratulations Freda!

Chislehurst Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Sat Dec 1	Noon to 4pm	Opens with stalls, refreshment, etc
	2-4pm	Christmas Dance Festival
Sun Dec 2	Noon to 4pm	
Mon to Sat	10am to 4pm	
Mon Dec 3	8pm	Popchoir singing among the trees
Tue Dec 4	6pm	Boys Brigade Christmas Campfire singalong
Sat Dec 8		April's Kitchen, Afternoon Tea among the trees (booking advisable)

Thank You For Your Generosity

Thank you to all who support the coffee mornings on Fridays and, of course on Sundays. So far this year the Friday coffee mornings have raised £377.90 and the Sunday coffee mornings £351.67. Particular thanks to everyone who is on the coffee rota and for everyone's generosity. In December all money raised will go to the Christmas charity, Crisis.

Thank you also to those who collect 5p coins in the film canisters. This year so far £42.63 has been raised.

This year 27 boxes were filled for Love-in-a-box. Philip and I delivered these to St. Joseph's Primary School in Crayford from where they were collected by Mustardseed.

Jennifer

A Knitted Bible Exhibition

A knitted bible exhibition has been travelling from Hartlepool since 2008. The congregation of St Georges URC, Hartlepool began knitting in February 2008 intending to create “The Last Supper”. The enthusiasm and imagination of the knitters made the project much more ambitious, and since then many churches in the country have enjoyed seeing the thirty three bible stories.

Most of the congregation as well as friends from other churches and places became involved, not only in knitting but constructing scenery, taking photographs, typing the script for each story and producing the knitted bible booklet.

Their hope is that in depicting some of the best known stories in the bible everyone who sees them will be able to understand and enjoy them and may discover some detail they had forgotten or never noticed before, while learning more about God and his love for this world and His people.

In September the exhibition was at Keswick Methodist Church for a second visit. Luckily, we were on holiday there at that time and thoroughly enjoyed viewing all the different stories which were beautifully displayed.

Looking at the future schedule I noticed that the exhibition will visit Chislehurst Methodist Church on February 12th to 28th in 2020. It is well worth visiting, so keep the date in mind !



Judith

The Wedding at Cana John 2:1-12



Noah's Ark Genesis 7:1-7

New Eltham Community Productions

Presents their 2019 Pantomime

Aladdin

at New Eltham Methodist Church

5th January 3pm and 7.30pm

11th January 7.30pm

12th January 3pm and 7.30pm

Tickets £8

www.necp.org.uk

necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk 020 8851 9881

Bromley Methodist Circuit
Safeguarding Training
‘Creating a Safer Space’
Foundation Module

Tuesday 15 January 2019
10am to 1pm

Bromley Methodist Church
College Rd, Bromley

Use BR1 1SD (North Street) if navigating by SATNAV

RSVP: Deacon Laura MacBean if you can attend
020 82498592 or laura.macbean@googlemail.com

For anyone who missed the previous course at Chislehurst

Film Night at New Eltham Methodist Church
Wednesday 5th December at 7.00 pm
It's a Wonderful Life

George Bailey is a small-town man whose life seems so desperate he contemplates suicide. He had always wanted to leave Bedford Falls to see the world, but circumstances and his own good heart have led him to stay. He sacrificed his education for his brother's, kept the family-run savings and loan afloat, protected the town from the avarice of the greedy banker Mr. Potter, and married his childhood sweetheart.

As he prepares to jump from a bridge, his guardian angel intercedes; showing him what life would have become for the residents of Bedford Falls if he had never lived.

Running time 2hr 10m.

All are welcome to come along and enjoy the film which will be followed by a short discussion and light refreshments. The film is free but there will be a small charge of £1 for refreshments. Bring a friend!

Dates For Your Diary

DECEMBER

Sat	1	10.00 am	Women's Hour	Christmas Fayre
Sun	2	10.30 am	Elders	Songs of Praise
Mon	3	Women's hour	2.00 pm	Advent Communion
Tue	4			
Wed	5			Aladdin (NEMC)
Thu	6			
Fri	7	Coffee morning	10.30 am	
Sat	8			4 - 6pm Messy Church (Christmas)
Sun	9	10.30 am	Rev Jacqueline Quarmby	Parade and Family Christingle 4.00 pm Civic Carol Service St Johns
Mon	10	Women's hour	<u>1.00 pm</u>	Christmas Lunch and Raffle
Tue	11			Aladdin (NEMC)
Wed	12			Aladdin (NEMC)
Thu	13			
Fri	14	Coffee morning	10.30 am	
Sat	15	10.30am	Carols at Morrison's (CTIS)	
Sun	16	10.30 am	Mr Peter Thornton	Lessons and Carols
Mon	17	Women's hour	2.00 pm	
Tue	18			
Wed	19			7.00 pm Carol Singing in the Streets
Thu	20			
Fri	21	Coffee morning	10.30 am	7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight
Sat	22			
Sun	23	10.30 am	Rev Alison Davis	Communion
Mon	24			11.30 pm Midnight Communion <u>at St Johns</u>
Tue	25	10.30 am	Elders	Christmas Day family service
Wed	26			
Thu	27			
Fri	28	Coffee morning	10.30 am	
Sat	29			12.00 to 3.00 pm Freda's party
Sun	30	10.30 am	Mrs Sue Cope	
Mon	31			

Dates For Your Diary

JANUARY

Tue	1		
Wed	2		
Thu	3		
Fri	4	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	5		
Sun	6	10.30 am To be arranged	
Mon	7	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	8		
Wed	9		
Thu	10		
Fri	11	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	12		4 - 6pm Messy Church
Sun	13	10.30 am Mrs Maggie Ayres (12.30) 2.00 pm (lunch) Joint URC	Family & Parade Covenant Service <u>Geddes Place</u>
Mon	14	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	15		1.00 pm URC Lunch Sophie's Choice
Wed	16		
Thu	17		
Fri	18	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	19		
Sun	20	10.30 am Deacon Maureen Spinks	6.30 pm Christian Unity <u>Sidcup Baptist Tea at 5.30pm</u>
Mon	21	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	22		
Wed	23		
Thu	24		
Fri	25	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	26		
Sun	27	10.30 am Rev Alison Davis	Communion, Covenant and Church Anniversary
Mon	28	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	29		
Wed	30		
Thu	31		

Dates For Your Diary

FEBRUARY

Fri	1	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	2		
Sun	3	10.30 am Mr David Ball	
Mon	4	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	5		
Wed	6		
Thu	7		
Fri	8	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	9		4 - 6pm Messy Church
Sun	10	10.30 am Mr Chris Price	Family & Parade
Mon	11	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	12		
Wed	13		
Thu	14		Outlook Copy due
Fri	15	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	16		
Sun	17	10.30 am To be arranged	
Mon	18	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	19		
Wed	20		
Thu	21		
Fri	22	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	23		
Sun	24	10.30 am Rev Alison Davis	Communion
Mon	25	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	26		
Wed	27		
Thu	28		

Weekday Activities

Monday	2.00pm 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Woman's Hour (except Bank Hols) 3rd Sidcup Beavers 3rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10.00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10.30am—noon 1.30pm 4.45pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning Parents & Toddlers Club 6 th Sidcup Rainbows 6 th Sidcup Brownies 4 th Sidcup Guides



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