

THE  
OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2019 TO  
FEBRUARY 2020



Emmanuel Church Sidcup  
Methodist and United Reformed

## A Christmas Message from Alison

Dear Friends,

We are approaching a particularly busy time of year Advent and Christmas, there are all the practical preparations, cards, presents etc, to be made and our own preparations to welcome again the Christ child and this year we have a General Election as well. Not since 1923 has a General Election been held in December and there are many thoughts about what effect the time of year will have on voting figures and the outcome. However busy we are we all need to make time to discern the facts behind the spin of the political parties and seek what is best for our country.

Politics and politicians can throw a spanner in the works quite easily and nothing changes in history. At least we do not need to return to our home town to cast our vote!

So how are you going to prepare in Advent aside from food preparation, cards and the other bits and pieces. I find an Advent candle helpful, as the candle burns I focus on God and think about God becoming a human being, one of us. Our preparation need not be onerous just a reminder of the reason for the season.

I haven't seen it myself but I understand that the Christmas advert for one of the supermarkets is using the strap line "A Christmas you can believe in", an intriguing line. I have discovered that it is actually the title of a song by Matthew West which was released in 2014. The last stanza of the lyrics is:

*It's grandpa's Bible opened up to Luke Chapter 2  
It's the greatest gift of love being born for me and you  
It's a heart returning home to the One who is the reason  
Every Christmas is a Christmas to believe in  
May your Christmas be a Christmas to believe in*

I wonder if the designer of the advert knew about the song or just liked the phrase. I hope, even if those who see the advert don't know the song or google the words like I did, it will make everyone think about the season and who and why we celebrate.

Christmas is a wonderful time, the celebration of the coming of Immanuel, God with us. Yet for many it can be a hard time of year, the expectation of gaiety, the pressure to conform to societal pressures for the need of lots of presents, the assumption that everyone will be with family or friends makes the season one of dread and fear. Jesus comes for everyone, those who look to his coming with awe and wonder as well as those who look with fear and dread.

However we approach Advent & Christmas, excitedly or fearfully, the message of Christmas to believe in is one of hope and love as the song puts it  
*“It's the greatest gift of love being born for me and you.”*

I wish you all a good Advent, a peaceful Christmas and an Happy New Year.

*Alison*

## O, Come let us adore Him



Dear Friends,

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth! At the October Synod Together meeting in October we said farewell to Revd Nicola Furley-Smith after 8½ years as Moderator of Southern Synod. We wish her well as she takes up her new role as Secretaries to Ministries in the URC nationally. She has certainly left a gap in our lives and for now that gap is being filled by the two of us (Revd Bridget Banks and Revd George Watt) supported by Revd Paul Dean covering the Ecumenical work of the Synod. We hope that someone will be in post by the summer next year. Please pray that the right person would be found to permanently fill the gap.

But there is something endearing about the smile of someone missing their two front teeth! It makes you aware of the other teeth which are every bit as important as the front ones. And we would remind you that the Synod is also made up of the Office and Field Staff, the Ministers, Local Church Leaders, Elders and all the members and adherents of our local churches – all playing our part in the mission of the Church. Let us smile broadly and celebrate each other.

As Christians what we long for isn't shiny new incisors but more of God's kingdom. At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Christ to fill the gaps in our lives and in our world. He comes to bring light in our darkness, hope in our despair and peace in our troubled world. We are invited to come and gaze on the baby born in a humble stable. He was the one that had been longed for and wished for to rescue and to save.

But it wasn't a one-off event. Christ comes afresh to the present troubled world to bring light, hope and peace. At the time of writing this letter we are preparing for a General Election and politicians are promising how to cure the ills of the present world. Promises can sound very easy, the hard thing is making it a reality. We rejoice that God didn't just promise us that he would love us but he showed it in a very tangible way by sending Jesus into the world. As unbelievable as it may sound this was part of God's plan to change hearts,

minds and the whole world. As John Bell & Graham Maule from Wild Goose put it:

Who would think that what was needed  
To transform and save the earth  
Might not be a plan or army,  
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
That a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

This is the Good News that we will be celebrating in our churches when there are so many challenges and so much uncertainty in our world today.

But we are also invited to join in with this work. We all have a part to play. At the recent LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) day we were encouraged to avoid saying 'I am just a...' as though we have no part in God's work. So, we should avoid thinking that we are just a florist, bin man, accountant, grandparent. We all have a part to play in filling the gaps in our world today. We can be the answer to our own prayers 'All I want is...' As we rejoice in God sending his Son into the world may we discover how he sends us to continue the work that he began.

We would like to wish all of you in local churches a happy and peaceful Christmas. And may you faithfully proclaim that Christ has been born amongst us bringing light in our darkness, hope where there is despair and peace where there is unrest.

God bless.



Revd Bridget Banks



Revd George Watt

*URC Assistant Moderators*





## **Christmas Events**

**2019**



Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am	Lessons & Carols
		4.00pm	Civic Carol Service ( <u>St. Johns</u> )
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am	Carols outside Waitrose (CTIS)
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am	Christingle Service
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00pm	Carol Singing in the Neighbourhood
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.30am	Christmas Communion
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass ( <u>St Johns</u> )
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>10.00am</u>	Christmas Day Service (Alison)

Please note there will be no midnight service at Emmanuel.

Everyone is invited to come and join us at all our events.

Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am	Circuit Service at Chislehurst
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## **Pastoral News**

We were sorry to hear that Rosemary Patterson is in hospital following a stroke. Please pray for her as she recovers.

Phillip Willson is improving following his surgery and is still continuing treatment. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with him.

Remember Iris Wood at home with carers supporting her. We think of Dorothy Limeburner who is not able to get to Church these days, but still needs our prayers.

Continue to pray for Maureen Howlett and her husband, Syd who continues to undergo treatment.

Elsie Goodman moved to Sidcup from Herne Bay earlier this year. It is lovely to welcome her each Sunday to share Morning Worship with us.

Joseph Stone and Daniella Izzard are looking forward to their wedding at Emmanuel on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We have been delighted to see them and their families worshipping with us. We wish them every happiness in their future life together.

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

When Judith visited Northbourne Court care home with PAT dog Jacob, she was pleased to see Josie Corcoran, and to remember Emmanuel friends to her. She also met Sue Moore who used to come to our coffee mornings. They both looked very comfortable.

If you have any news of people who need our prayers please mention them in the book at the back of the church.

## **Chislehurst Christmas Tree Festival**

This year we are raising funds for the fantastic local charity **The Maypole Project**. The charity supports children with complex medical needs and their families, across Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark. You can find out more about their work here: <https://www.themaypoleproject.co.uk/about-us/>

Last year we had over 1,000 visitor and 40+ fantastic trees – this year we are aiming for bigger and better!!

The programme below details all the events going on during the festival. There will also be a fun activities for children going on during the week.

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Opening Day	12noon – 5pm
Festival day with stalls, refreshments and the Dance Show at 2pm		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec.		12noon – 5pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec.		10am – 5pm
Popchoir singing amongst the trees		8pm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.		10am – 5pm
Boys' Brigade Campfire Sing-a-Long		6pm
Wednesday 4th Dec.		10am – 5pm
Thursday 5th Dec.		10am – 5pm
All the Arts Theatre School singing		6pm
Friday 6th Dec.		10am – 5pm
Craft stall in courtyard during opening hours		
Saturday 7th Dec.		10am – 5pm
Orpington Chorale Society singing		2.30pm
Sunday 8th Dec.	Festival ends	12noon – 5pm

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR  
WOMEN'S HOUR**

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

**AT EMMANUEL CHURCH HALL  
ON SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
AT 10 AM**

**WE HAVE A SELECTION  
OF HOMEMADE CAKES  
AND BREAD**

**SEASONAL GIFTS  
AND A  
GRAND RAFFLE**

**COME IN AND JOIN US  
FOR A GET TOGETHER  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS.**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO OUR  
WOMENS' HOUR  
CHARITIES**

## ***Sidcup Horticultural Association***

The Association complete their 2019/20 programme of monthly Illustrated Talks by highly regarded guest speakers on the following Tuesday evenings to which you are cordially invited:

**21 January                      Working in Monet's Garden                      Caroline Halfpenny**

**18 February                      The Folklore of Flowers                      Sophie Leathart**

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.

### **Food Bank as at 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

*They are very short at the moment of Sugar, Puddings in tins or packets to microwave, Custard, Long Life Fruit Juice & Milk.*

*I was lucky enough to see some of the children's Christmas presents that you were all kind enough to donate being handed out to families this morning – tears of gratitude from the mums.*

### **The other things they always need are:**

Meat Pies in Tins	Rice for Savoury Dishes or Puddings
Meat or fish in Tins	Tins of vegetables like peas, carrots, sweetcorn etc
Potatoes either mash or tins	Detergents
Tins of fruit	Washing Powder
Toiletries and feminine Hygiene	Toothpaste and tooth brushes
Washing up liquid	Snacks for children to take to school
Bleach	

The only thing that they always seem to have an excess of is

Pasta and Baked Beans

No Fresh food please or anything close to "Best before Date"

Thank you to everyone who donates!

*Roger*



**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 14<sup>th</sup>    Christmas"  
January        11<sup>th</sup>  
February       8<sup>th</sup>**

**Who ?                      All ages welcome**

**We look forward to seeing you all there**

**"Contact: Roger Latch (rogerclatch32@gmail.com) 020 8300 5758"**

## **14<sup>th</sup> September "Noah's Ark"**

Well our theme was Noah and the great flood but outside it was a beautiful sunny day with no sign of rain and I think most of our messy members had gone out for the day to enjoy the sunshine before the autumn sets in. Even so we had 18 children with their parents, grandparents or guardians and what a wonderful time we all had.

We had a giant Ark for everyone to help decorate and beautiful it looks too.

We had personal Arks that the children could make out of lolly sticks and decorate with animal faces.

We had Noah and his wife walking along the deck and inspecting the Ark before the rain.

Our "foody" table is always successful and this time we had toasted slices of bread for the children to decorate with chocolate spread etc. and cut up fruit to make animal faces.

We had another table where the children could make a mobile ready to hang up at home, representing the Ark with a rainbow in the sky above and the stormy sea below.

The dove is an important part of the story of Noah, so we had a table where the children could cut out a template of a dove and attach folded tissue paper to look like wings.

We also had a table where the children could colour in pictures of animals – peaceful and relaxing.

In addition to these wonderful crafts, we had our usual playdoh table and toddler mats with toys.

At 5:15 everyone went out to the Green Room to hear the story of Noah, to sing a song and to pray for our world, families, friends and neighbours. Meanwhile the hall was cleared up and the usual magnificent feast was laid out for one and all to enjoy together.

We thought that we were going to be very, very short of helpers this month but our church rose to the challenge and we had almost as many helpers as children. This was great as we had plenty of time to talk to the children and their parents.

## **12<sup>th</sup> October “Harvest”**

It was a cold wet day outside and many of our Messy parents must have decided to stay indoors in the warm but we still had 25 children with their parents and guardians. Having so, relatively few, children meant that we could have lovely chats with them and they were telling us all about school and what they would be doing at Halloween. I must say that we always go on about our wonderful band of Angel helpers but our Messy Children and parents are delightful and it is a great pleasure to provide a Messy day for them.

Our Giant craft table this month was a drawing of some fruit and the children had to stick on pictures of fruit and vegetable – the beautiful result is at the front of the church.

We had some lavender bags and dried lavender, especially imported from France, for the children to rub off the dried flower heads to put in the bags to take home to put in a wardrobe and make their clothes smell nice.

We have much to be thankful for and the children made “Thank you” wheels consisting of 2 plates fixed in the middle with a split pin so the top plate could turn and a piece cut out so that different thank you messages could be displayed as the wheel was turned – ingenious and all beautifully decorated.

It’s marvellous what you can do with some red and green coloured paper when it is cut and folded into the shape of 3D apples or pumpkins and then hung on a tree.

Corn on the cob is a favourite to eat this time of year so the children made some, using a lettuce leaf with a biscuit covered with icing sugar inside and freshly popped pop corn stuck on top before some flat green lacy sweet was added to represent leaves. I must say that the only examples of these left behind were the lonely looking lettuce leaves.

The hedgehog is our favourite wild animal and so we had some picture frames made up using large lolly sticks and hedgehog templates printed on card for the

children to stick on and then decorate with pumpkin seeds for spines – they looked beautiful.

A drive in the countryside will reveal scarecrows in the farmer's fields so we thought it appropriate to make some using a frame made of lolly sticks (where would we be without them) and various pieces of cut out paper for the children to decorate and personalise.

Everyone went out to the green room to hear the story of Jacob & Esau, to sing a song and say prayers for friends, family, neighbours and our troubled world before coming back into the hall for the hastily prepared feast that awaited them.

We then played the parachute game to loud squeals of laughter and delight before the children departed for home carrying all the things that they had made.

## **9<sup>th</sup> November "Remembrance"**

It was a cold and wet day outside but lovely and warm inside as 29 of our Messy children with their parents and guardians gathered to take part in our crafts, loosely associated with Remembrance Day and Guy Fawkes Day.

We had a giant collage where everyone could put a message or the names of people that they would like to be remembered.

The children could make a poppy to their own design and wear with pride.

They could decorate biscuits to look like bonfires. Very tasty

They could make a medal to wear like many brave soldiers.

Using colourful paints they could design their own firework display

How good is your memory? The children and parents had to uncover a tray with 12 items on it and study for 2 minutes and then write down as many as they could remember.

We had silhouettes of soldiers for the children to colour in with camouflage paint.

At 5:15 everyone went out to the Green Room to hear the story: "Where is Jesus?" They said a prayer for our troubled world in the hope of bringing about worldwide peace. They then sang a song before coming back into the hall where a hot meal of jacket potatoes, baked beans and cheese awaited them.

To round the afternoon off we then played the parachute game.

Thank you, once more to our wonderful band of Angels who give up so much of their time to make our messy meetings so successful.

Our next meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup> December and the theme will be Christmas

Come and join us – have fun.

*Roger*

## Ladies' Fellowship Hour

Dec	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Advent Communion with Alison.
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Making Christmas centre pieces and carol singing with mince pies.
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Buffet Lunch and Raffle 1.00pm.
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	No meeting. Christmas Holidays.
	30 <sup>th</sup>	looking forward to the New Year with a tea party.
Jan	6 <sup>th</sup>	New year quiz.
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Myra leading us in song.

The rest of the program is still to be organised

*Marion*

## SIDCUP LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY FOUNDED 1880

### Programme for December 2019 — March 2020

Dec	10 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Wellcome Pharmacist	Ross MacFarlane
Jan	14 <sup>th</sup>	W T Henley Telegraph Works and Pluto	Frank Turner
	28 <sup>th</sup>	A Schoolgirl's War	Mary Smith
Feb	11 <sup>th</sup>	Putting your foot through the ages - development of the shoe	Dr Vanessa Jenkins
	25 <sup>th</sup>	A Celebration of British Craftsmanship	Karen Bennett

The Society welcomes new members and guests.

Why not come along and join us on a Tuesday evening.

All meetings held at The Emmanuel Church Hall, Hadlow Road,  
Sidcup. Kent at 7.30 pm

Annual subscription - £15. Single lecture - £4

Contact: 020 8300 8647 For further information, or go to: -

[www.sidcupliteraryandscientificsociety.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.sidcupliteraryandscientificsociety.blogspot.co.uk)

**And now on Facebook too !**

[www.facebook.com/SidcupLit/](http://www.facebook.com/SidcupLit/)

## **Revised Common Lectionary**

<b>Liturgical Date</b>	<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>First Reading</b>
1st Sun of Advent	Dec 1	Isaiah 2:1-5
2nd Sun of Advent	Dec 8	Isaiah 11:1-10
3rd Sun of Advent	Dec 15	Isaiah 35:1-10
4th Sun of Advent	Dec 22	Isaiah 7:10-16
Christmas Day	Dec 25	Isaiah 9:2-7
1st Sun after Christmas Day	Dec 29	Isaiah 63:7-9
2nd Sun after Christmas Day	Jan 5	Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
1st Sun after the Epiphany	Jan 12	Isaiah 42:1-9
2nd Sun after the Epiphany	Jan 19	Isaiah 49:1-7
3rd Sun after the Epiphany	Jan 26	Isaiah 9:1-4
4th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb 2	Micah 6:1-8
5th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb 9	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)
6th Sun after the Epiphany	Feb 16	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
Transfiguration Sun	Feb 23	Exodus 24:12-18
Ash Wednesday	Feb 26	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

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

### **URC Pastorate Covenant Service**

There will be a URC Pastorate Covenant service  
at Bexley URC Church  
on Sunday 12<sup>st</sup> January at 2.00pm.

The service will be preceded by a lunch at 12.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, but numbers for the lunch are needed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

Please give numbers to Judith or Jennifer

## Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Psalm Reading	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
Dec 1	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Dec 8	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec 15	Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Dec 22	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 25	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Dec 29	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23
Jan 5	Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Jan 12	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 19	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan 26	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Feb 2	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Feb 9	Psalm 112:1-9, (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Feb 16	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Feb 23	Psalm 2 or Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Feb 26	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### URC Pastorate Lunch

12.30pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January  
At Sophies Choice.

Everyone is welcome, but numbers and a £10 deposit are needed by 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
Please give numbers to Judith or Jennifer.

### Tea Dance Afternoon

While doing a job at the Church on Saturday afternoon, Tony and I dropped into the Hall where people were enjoying a Tea Dance. There were about a dozen there, though we were told there were eighteen last month.

The people there were very friendly and we enjoyed chatting to most of them. They said how much they enjoyed their afternoons. Some people had travelled quite a distance. They were doing a mixture of ballroom and line dancing. They paused for tea, and refreshments during which a raffle was drawn.

Their leader, Rose, would be delighted to see more dancers there. They usually meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. You would be made very welcome

*Judith*



## 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
Lilian 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

## **Bexley Winter Shelter (2<sup>nd</sup> Jan to 28<sup>th</sup> Mar)**

A group of churches in the London Borough of Bexley come together each winter to provide overnight accommodation, hot meals, help and support. At this stage, the Shelter's resources and available venues limit us to making spaces available only to homeless men who, often through no fault of their own, find themselves sleeping rough on the streets and roads of the borough during the months of January to March.

Each shelter is run by volunteers and finances are accumulated through the very generous gifts and grants from individuals, churches and other organisations. The running of the shelter is overseen and organised by a steering committee and a group of Trustees.

We also work alongside **Housing Justice** a national organisation and **Cornerstone**, a local charity which undertakes our guest assessments. We have a comprehensive range of policies covering all aspects of running such a project and engaging with volunteers and guests as well as the appropriate insurance cover.

Bexley Winter Shelter is not a "drop-in" centre and anyone wishing to access the venues is required to attend an assessment which is carried out by our partner charity, **Cornerstone**. This ensures that the guest is likely to be happy at the venues and that Bexley Winter Shelter is able to meet a guest's needs.

MEALS SERVED SINCE 2017	5,040
SLEEPS ON THE STREET PREVENTED	2,520
VOLUNTEERS TO DATE	240
VENUES PARTICIPATING	7

Volunteers are women and men who have a heart for the homeless and are willing to give up a few hours a week for some 12 weeks to serve and help our guests. All volunteers must first attend a two hour training session as this ensures continuity and that each evening is run to the same standards and rules. Amongst our volunteers we seek Team Leaders and Cooks (who must have a current level 2 Food Hygiene certificate) for each venue and they will undergo additional training.

The evening shift runs 6.15 pm to 10.30 pm, and welcomes guests, prepares and serve the meal and sets out the bedding.

There is a small over-night shift 10.15pm to 6.30am.

The morning shift covers 6.15am until 8.45 am. and prepares breakfast, sees the guests on their way for the day and tidies up.

**This year Emmanuel is supporting the Bexley Winter Shelter as our Christmas Charity 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.**



## **A Methodist Heritage Chapel in Sussex**

Winchelsea Methodist Chapel is one of the few remaining Chapels in which John Wesley preached. The Church is still in use although regular services are no longer held, but the Friends of Winchelsea Church organise monthly events and hold special services. It is a small gem with a special atmosphere of peace. Wesley first visited Winchelsea in 1772 and the townspeople were so impressed with his preaching that a preaching house, known as Even's Chapel was built on land provided by a supporter whose name was Evens.

Wesley preached in the Chapel in 1789. The pulpit he preached from still remains in the building. When he returned a year later so many people wanted to hear him he preached outdoors under an ash tree. The tree became known as Wesley's tree and when the tree fell, a cutting from the tree was planted. There is a commemorative service beneath the tree every July. Wesley died six months after preaching outdoors under the tree.

In 1851 William Forster, Winchelsea Chapel's steward recorded 30 attending in the morning, 50 in the afternoon and 60 in the evening. These numbers encouraged the building of a new chapel in a more central location, with the help of well connected benefactors. The old preaching house was put up for sale. Fortunately there were no buyers, so it was used as a Sunday School room and thankfully preserved.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war attendances declined and eventually the new chapel was sold and later demolished with the proceeds being used to restore the old preaching house. This continued to be used as a place of worship but as numbers gradually went down the circuit took over responsibility for the use and maintenance of the building and so The Friends of Winchelsea Methodist Chapel was set up ensuring the Chapel continues as a place where God can be met, as well as a museum.

In recent years the floor of the Chapel was exposed, and treated with five coats of varnish to enhance the look and feel of the interior. As part of the floor was lifted it was

found that the floor was supported by old ship's masts, which having been soaked with tar were fully intact, a real example of recycling.

Unfortunately the Chapel cannot be open all the time for visits but special Open days are advertised. Tony and I visited on Heritage weekend in September.

Winchelsea is a beautiful small Sussex town with an interesting history. Once it was one of the busiest ports in the country. Although it appears quiet today there is much evidence of its importance in medieval times. The town was created by Edward I in 1288 as a replacement for Old Winchelsea which existed on a low lying spit of land which disappeared under the sea at the end of the 13th century. It is a charming place to explore and enjoy.

*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 year's charity, Crisis.

Thank you *Olive*



## **Services for December**

1	10.30am	Mr David Ball	
8	10.30am	Elders	Lessons and Carols
15	10.30pm	Mr Peter Thornton	Family & Parade Christingle
20	<u>7.00pm</u>	Rev Alison Davis	Carols by Candlelight
22	10.30am	Rev Alison Davis	Communion
24	<u>11.30pm</u>	Midnight Communion	<u>St Johns</u>
25	<u>10.00am</u>	Rev Alison Davis	Christmas Day family service
29	10.30am	Circuit Service	<u>At Chislehurst</u>

## **Services for January**

5	10.30am	Rev Alison Davis	Covenant and Church Anniversary Communion
12	10.30am	Mrs Pat Woodison	Family & Parade
19	10.30am	Mrs Valerie Loader	
26	10.30am	Mr Paul Ayliffe	

## **Services for February**

2	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	
9	10.30am	Mrs Joan Mayes	Family & Parade
16	10.30am	Mr Chris Price	
23	10.30am	Rev Alison Davis	Communion

## 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	1	Pat & Marion	Jan	19	Pam & Jennifer
	8	Roger & Christine		26	Pat & Marion
	15	Guides	Feb	2	Roger & Christine
	22	Ethel & Maureen		9	Guides
	29	Circuit Service		16	Ethel & Maureen
Jan	5	Judith & Mandy		23	Judith & Mandy
	12	Ann & Maryia			

## Please Note

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

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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

## The Hastings Embroidery in Rye

What a wonderful exhibition we enjoyed during our visit to Sussex in September. The Hastings Embroidery was being displayed in Rye after being in storage for over fifty years. Only two panels remain on display in Hastings Town Hall today. The magnificent tapestry was created by 22 ladies of the Royal College of Needlework and was commissioned to celebrate the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in 1966. The embroidery was conceived by war hero, Group Captain Ralph Bagshaw Ward and it was he who chose the events it depicts. When it was made it was on display in Hastings Town Hall and later on the pier and then put into storage. This year it came to a suitable venue near Rye harbour for a short time before it went back into storage. It was only on view for a few selected weekends between May and October.

The tapestry consists of 27 panels depicting major events in British history from 1066 to 1966. It took the embroiderers 10 months to complete. It is worked in applique by hand, with the addition of couched threads and cords, tweeds from Scotland, fabrics from the Victoria and Albert Museum and feathers from London Zoo. It is in bright, vibrant colours, 24 5 ft long , depicting over 80 significant events in British history. The quality of the needlework is breathtaking. It is a modern day equivalent of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Sadly the Hastings Tapestry has gone back into storage. Hopefully one day a suitable permanent climate controlled environment for this wonderful treasure can be found so that many people can enjoy it.

*Judith*



The Battle of Hastings

Dick Whittington



Wren and St Pauls

## **Remembrance Day 2019**

It was good to see so many people in church on Remembrance Day. 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”.

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. We had a total congregation of 120 including the uniformed organisations who later provided coffee in the Hall.

It was a very moving Act of Remembrance.

*Tony*

# New Eltham Community Productions Presents their 2020 Pantomime **Rapunzel**

**at New Eltham Methodist Church**

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> January 3pm and 7.30pm**

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm**

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> January 3pm and 7.30pm**

**Tickets £8**

**[www.necp.org.uk](http://www.necp.org.uk)**

**[necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk) 020 8851 9881**

## Users of Emmanuel

For interest, here is a list of the various groups that use our premises.

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Monday evening
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	Friday evening
Women's Hour	Monday afternoon
Coffee Morning	Friday morning
Parents & Toddlers	Friday afternoon
Messy Church	Saturday afternoon (2 <sup>nd</sup> week most months)
AA & Addiction Help Groups	Most days
Badminton	Thursday mornings
Children's Maths (Kumon)	Mon & Wed afternoons & Sat morning
Children's Literacy (Kin learning)	Thursday afternoon
Children's Football (Little Kickers)	Monday morning
Dance (Pineapple Studio)	Monday morning & Wednesday afternoon
Dance & Fitness (RSDF)	Saturday mornings
Tea Dance	Saturday afternoon (3 <sup>rd</sup> week each month)
Singing (Vocalise)	Monday afternoon
Singing (Choir School Teen)	Saturday morning
Parkinson's Music	Thursday morning
Yoga	Tuesday mornings
Literary & Scientific Society	Tue evening (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks winter months)
Horticultural Society	Tuesday evening (3 <sup>rd</sup> week winter months)
Karate (San Tu Dang)	Wednesday evening
Tai Chi – (Studio Kowloon)	Wednesday mornings
Blind Club (KAB VIP)	Thursday afternoons (fortnightly)
Bus Club (RM8)	Thursday evening (3 <sup>rd</sup> week most months)

# Dates For Your Diary

## DECEMBER

Sun	1	10.30 am	Mr David Ball	
Mon	2	Women's hour	2.00 pm	
Tue	3			
Wed	4			
Thu	5			
Fri	6	Coffee morning	10.30 am	
Sat	7	10.00 am	Womens Hour Christmas	Coffee Morning
Sun	8	10.30 am	Elders	Lessons and Carols
			Chislehurst	4.00pm Civic Carol Service St Johns
			Christmas Tree Festival ends	
Mon	9	Women's hour	2.00 pm	
Tue	10			
Wed	11			
Thu	12	12.30 pm	Lunch Bexley URC	2.00 pm URC Pastorate Service
Fri	13	Coffee morning	10.30 am	
Sat	14	10.30 am	Carols at Waitrose etc.	4 - 6pm Messy Church
Sun	15	10.30 am	Mr Peter Thornton	Parade and Family, Christingle service
Mon	16	Women's hour	Lunch 1.00 pm	
Tue	17			7.00 pm Carols in the Neighbourhood
Wed	18			
Thu	19			
Fri	20	Coffee morning	10.30 am	7.00 pm Carols by Candlelight
Sat	21			
Sun	22	10.30 am	Rev Alison Davis	Christmas Communion
Mon	23			
Tue	24	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	<u>St Johns</u>
Wed	25	<u>10.00</u> am	Rev Alison Davis	Christmas Day Family Service
Thu	26			
Fri	27			
Sat	28			
Sun	29	10.30 am	Circuit Service	<u>At Chislehurst</u>
Mon	30	Women's hour	2.00 pm	
Tue	31			

# Dates For Your Diary

## JANUARY

Wed	1	Wedding of Joseph Stone	and Daniella Izzard
Thu	2		
Fri	3	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	4		Rapunzel Eltham
Sun	5	10.30 am Rev Alison Davis	Covenant and Church Anniversary, Communion
Mon	6	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	7		
Wed	8		
Thu	9		
Fri	10	Coffee morning 10.30 am	Rapunzel Eltham
Sat	11	Rapunzel Eltham	4 - 6pm Messy Church .
Sun	12	10.00 am Mrs Pat Woodison	Parade and Family service
		12.00 pm Lunch Bexley URC	2.00 pm Bexley URC Covenant Service
Mon	13	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	14	12.30pm URC Pastorate Lunch	Sophies Choice
Wed	15		
Thu	16		
Fri	17	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	18		
Sun	19	10.30 am Mrs Valerie Loader	
Mon	20	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	21		
Wed	22		
Thu	23		
Fri	24	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	25		
Sun	26	10.30 am Mr Paul Ayliffe	
Mon	27	Women's hour 2.00 pm	Holocaust Memorial Day
Tue	28		
Wed	29		
Thu	30		
Fri	31		

# Dates For Your Diary

## FEBRUARY

Sat	1		
Sun	2	10.30 am	Mr Martin Leonard
Mon	3	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	4		
Wed	5		
Thu	6		
Fri	7	Coffee morning	10.30 am
Sat	8		4 - 6pm Messy Church
Sun	9	10.30 am	Mrs Joan Mayes
Mon	10	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	11		
Wed	12		
Thu	13		
Fri	14	Coffee morning	10.30 am
Sat	15		
Sun	16	10.30 am	Mr Chris Price
Mon	17	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	18		
Wed	19		
Thu	20		Outlook Copy due
Fri	21	Coffee morning	10.30 am
Sat	22		
Sun	23	10.30 am	Rev Alison Davis
Mon	24	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	25		
Wed	26		
Thu	27		
Fri	28		
Sat	29		

# 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 <sup>th</sup> Sidcup Rainbows 6 <sup>th</sup> Sidcup Brownies 4 <sup>th</sup> Sidcup Guides



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