

THE  
OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2021 -  
FEBRUARY 2022



Emmanuel Church Sidcup  
Methodist and United Reformed



## Letter from the Interim Moderator

Sadly I have no good news to report on the ministerial front. A number of ministers must retire before the Vacancy List is re-opened. But I hear of at least three ministers who will be retiring in early 2022. There must be others. So we have optimistic grounds for hope next year. One of the three is our good friend Raymond Singh. He was a member of the Pastoral team who examined our Profile when we met them via Zoom. I have known Raymond for many years. As an ordinand he applied for the vacancy in my own church. Sadly he was unsuccessful. He would have been much, much better than the minister we eventually got! But we keep hoping. Maybe I will have more positive news in the March newsletter.

So now to move on to consider Christmas. Pam and I share home responsibilities and, in the main, it works very well. One of my tasks is to write all our Christmas cards. It is our practice to send only religious cards with a Christmas message. But this year it is nigh on impossible to buy such a card. Christmas must have more meaningless symbols attached to it than any other celebration!

A little game. Which of the following are real and which are false?

Terrorist sends letter bomb. Post Office returns it. Forgets he sent it. Opens it and blows himself up.

Woman noticed a car in front with the sticker “Honk if you love Jesus”. She honked. The driver got out of the car and smashed her windscreen and bonnet to bits.

Groups of gypsies were taken to hospital after eating rotten horseflesh. They asked to be sent home because the hospital food was so bad they preferred to take their chances with the horsemeat!

Eminent lawyers are trying to discern whether or not to verify the claims that a baby was born to a couple who swore that they had never had intercourse.

When a deaf vicar asked the name of the child the godmother quietly said “Lucifer”. He refused to accept such a name so baptised the child John. It was only afterwards that he learned that the godmother had said “Lucy, sir”.

Now this will surprise you. *They are all true.* I have the bible to verify one and the Sunday Times to verify the other four. The other four stories occurred within the past five years. The one about Baby Jesus happened just over *two thousand years* ago.

And it is only right and proper that we should begin to consider His birth and its implications in the Advent season. Unlike the Spanish dramatist la Barca who said, “man’s greatest crime is to have been born” we give our highest praise and thanks to the fact that Jesus *was* born.

Can you think of any likely stories, similar to the other four events I have mentioned, that happened two thousand years ago? No you cannot. *And you never will.* Now let us ponder over a very important topic. If the other events mentioned happened, say, fifty years previous would they still be news worthy? And the time-scale I am thinking of is nowhere in the region of two thousand years? I think most certainly not.

People continually write off the story of Jesus’s birth. They just know it could not happen. They know. Sadly greater numbers disbelieve the virgin birth. I tried to find out current statistics but was unable. The story of the baby Jesus has been ridiculed and written off a hundred times more often than the late Frank Sinatra comeback concerts. An aside. I managed to spell “Sinatra” wrongly first time round but the excellent spell check on Word did *not* suggest an alternative. So much for passing fame.

So we must ask the question “why go to such lengths to tell such a story if it were not true?”

As Michael Green in his commentary states, “Christianity is concerned with what actually happened. We are not at liberty to re-write history in order to fit in with what we imagine to be likely.” The real objection to the virgin birth – or the virgin conception if we wish to be precise - springs from the assumption that God cannot or does not perform miracles. *No one* who believes that God has entered our world through Jesus can make that bland assumption.

It was necessary to find a Man who was a true Man, and yet who was without sin, for the sake of our salvation.

Isn’t it strange that so many people are ready to believe stories of deaf vicars, gastronomic gypsies and other very unlikely events but they flatly refuse to believe the one about the Baby Jesus? We already have one miracle birth - that of John the Baptist. Why spoil the story by introducing another? There is absolutely no need for it. Of course if it was true then it is only correct and proper to establish it.

But let me ask you a question. What would you feel if you had painstakingly written a *really serious book* about a particular theme? Subject matter that you had spent a long time researching to ensure that all your facts were authenticated? Then find that your peers are laughing at your efforts. What would you feel? If you have any doubts at all what would you do? I know what I would do. I would simply ignore it and

pass on to the next chapter. Why dwell on it and risk the chance of either being found out as a fool or looked down upon as a charlatan.

Because it is true that all lies eventually come out. Consider Sir Cyril Burt and his work on IQ. The books were cooked but the truth came out in the end. Previous assumptions based on Burt's studies had to be revised. Science in general and behavioural genetics in particular were profoundly harmed by Burt's fabrication of data.

We know that Jesus is the Son of God. The miraculous event of the birth of Jesus who was destined to change the world. And change it He did. And what of the future? He will go on changing it and go on changing so many lives for the better. That is the Son whose birth we shall be celebrating later this month. The Son of God. How could His birth be otherwise?

May I wish you and all your family every blessing from God over the Christmas season.

*Colin Watson*

## **Moderator's Christmas Letter 2021**

*'Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the new-born king'*

Last year Christmas with our families was cancelled, and we wonder if it will happen this year too. The uncertainty continues.

It may seem that after the pandemic we entered a new way of hybrid living, part on zoom and part in person, life might at times feel chaotic and strained at the edges.

You received my letter recently about deployment and maybe moaned at Synod, the national church or even your minister. It doesn't seem very fair that there aren't the number of ministers that we used to have.

As the Hebrews sang in Egypt, it's hard to sing the Lord's song in a strange land. Jesus knew all about strange lands, he ended up in Egypt after he was born, to escape Herod. Sometimes we are taken to a place we don't know, even at Christmas time. Of course, while we have strangeness around us, we can hold onto something that is familiar to us, Christmas and the coming of the Lord Jesus. It doesn't matter what kind of land or liminal space we are in; the story of Christ's birth reminds us that God came to be 'with us' in our strife.

Herald angels come to announce good news:

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the*

*Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2: 8-12*

These angels brought good news to bring joy. We, who have heard this good news, are invited to share this news of joy at a time when others need to hear it, rather like the herald angels. Not only your ministers or Elders, we all have someone we could share this amazing news with. Jesus is still coming to us, especially at this time of challenge and uncertainty.

As the evenings grow longer and the darkness seems to deepen, let us hold onto the fact that God is doing what God did 2000 years ago. God is doing a new thing, and we need to take time to recognise it, and embrace it.

May the light of Christ shine in your darkness this Christmas,

Every blessing



### **Just Doing My Job**

I'm one of Herod's henchmen,  
We don't have much to say.  
We just charge through the audience  
In a henchman sort of way.  
We all wear woolly helmets  
To hide our hair and ears  
And wellingtons sprayed silver  
To match our tin foil spears.  
Our swords are made of cardboard  
So, blood will not be spilled  
If we trip and stab somebody  
When the Hall's completely filled.  
We don't look very scary  
We're mostly small and shy  
And some of us wear glasses  
But we give the thing a try.  
We whisper henchman noises  
While Herod hunts for strangers  
Then we all charge out again,  
Like nervous Power Rangers.  
And when the play is over  
And Miss is out of breath  
We charge like henchmen  
Through the Hall  
And scare our Mums to death.

*Elsie*

## Christmas Card Tree



As usual, the Emmanuel Christmas card tree will be at the back of the church during December, for you to hang a card to your Church friends on.

If you would like to leave a donation in the box provided, please do so. Money collected will go to our Christmas charities.

*Olive*



## Christmas

2021



Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 most of our normal Christmas events have again been cancelled. We are left with the following.

Fellowship coffee morning 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10.30am.

Civic Carol Service 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 4.00pm at Holy Trinity Lamorbey.

CTIS Carol Singing 18<sup>th</sup> Dec St Johns at 9.30 then on to Gym at top of Hadlow Rd.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am Lessons & Carols

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec **10.00am** Christmas Day Service

Please note there will be no midnight Christmas Eve service at Emmanuel, and no service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Christmas Eve services at 11.30pm will be held at Orpington and New Eltham.

## Women's Hour - Relunched as Monday Fellowship

Well folks we made it back again in September after our very long break. There was great excitement as we opened our doors for the first time. It was marvelous to see our loyal members and also new members coming in to enjoy an hour of friendship, fun and a lot of laughter. We are averaging 18 members including our two resident men. The new members have kept coming back, so it looks as though we made them welcome.

After we have had our entertainment, we sit down to a cup of tea in 'proper' cups and saucers with cakes and biscuits. We would like to welcome more members and we are now open to everyone. The hour soon goes by, and people leave refreshed after meeting up with their friends.

We still support Nasio in Kenya, providing money for the children's education and care.



Gabriel Juma



Arafat Karacacha, sponsored by Pat



The Women's Hour began the connection with Nasio through our dear friend Freda Skinner and her wonderful daughters who have been traveling to Kenya for many years. We sponsor two children at the moment, Kathrine and Gabriel.

We support the children from our own funds through raffles, and in the past the sales we held. Obviously, since March 2020 our money has been depleted, but now we are back we can still care for these two children. Pat George, Eileen Taylor and I also sponsor our own two children.

They are growing up now and when they end their education, we will continue to sponsor more children who need help. We are sent lovely letters, photos, and a copy of their school reports. If anyone would like more information, please ask us.

We hope to hold a Christmas get-together with cakes, gifts and raffles. There will also be refreshments, so please come along and support us on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30. In the meantime, please come along and join us on any Monday at 2pm.

*See you there  
Marion*

## **COVID-19 dogs in the field**

We are thrilled that a team of our COVID-19 detection dogs are now training in the field, as part of the second phase of our project.

They are operating a rapid Screen and Test strategy at places with large numbers of people such as workplaces. This means that only those indicated as positive by the dogs require a confirmatory PCR test, resulting in far fewer individuals needing testing.

The dogs screen lines of people or single individuals, depending on the footfall at the site, and each person takes only a brief moment. The dogs sniff the air around the person, who can keep walking if no indication is made, adding no time or inconvenience to their journey. If a dog does detect the odour of COVID19, a very clear “stand”, “sit” or “follow” indication is made, so the trainer knows they need to gently ask that person to step to one side and talk them through the next steps – to ask if they are willing to be consented on our study and seek a COVID-19 PCR test to confirm the dogs’ indication.

Some individuals who are screened negative by the dogs are randomly selected to be asked if they would take part in our trial as a control to confirm their negative status. As soon as all of the trial data is collected, we will be moving forward to a fully operational service.

*Copyright © 2021 Medical Detection Dogs*

## Pastoral News

Our prayers are with Philip and Jennifer Willson. Philip has not been well recently, including a spell in hospital, and is now about to start a further course of treatment. Please think of them both at this time.

Sue Shepard who is a member of the badminton group and a friend of Pam Bush has been seriously ill recently. We have been asked to remember her in our prayers as she recovers.

Gordon Emms is not well and is waiting for further appointments.

We think of George and Elaine Smith who are not able to get to Church but who are now getting support from carers which is a help to George.

Our thoughts continue to be with Freda Skinner and Lorna New in St Margaret's Care Home as they do with Doris Willson in Baugh House. Doris recently had her 103rd birthday.

It is good to see both Mandy Laundry and Maureen Howlett back at Church after their recent bereavements.

We were all surprised to hear that Jenni and Peter Thornton will be moving to Dorset in the near future. We wish them every happiness in their new home. How we will miss them at Emmanuel!

Joe and Ella and their family have moved, but we have been pleased to see the children still coming to Messy Church.

## Food Bank Report November 2021

**Thank you to everyone who donates. It is very much appreciated by the Food Bank and the people who find themselves in a very difficult situation through no fault of their own.**

*Roger*

### Their Current Needs Are:

Cleaning Products including  
washing up liquid.  
Small packets of washing Powder  
Deodorants  
Shampoo  
Bars of soap  
Chocolate Drink Powder  
Cereals (Small packs for children)  
Meat in tins  
Tins of Fish  
Long life milk  
Fruit in tins  
Custard in cartons or packets

Biscuits  
Fruit Juice  
Toilet Rolls  
Kitchen Rolls  
Bottles of Squash  
Small packets of sugar  
Tins of soup  
Small Christmas Gifts for children

**They currently have a surplus of:**  
Tins of Beans  
Pasta

## A Birthday Walk for Remembrance

There is a wonderful charity called Scotty's Little Soldiers which is dedicated to supporting bereaved British Forces' children and young people. It was started up by Nikki Scott whose husband, Lee, was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. Seeing the effect of Lee's death on her two children inspired Nikki to set up the charity in 2010. The charity's mission is "to provide relief from the effects of bereavement to young people who have experienced the death of a parent who served with the Armed Forces of the Crown."

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, Kerry Irving, the owner of Max the Miracle dog. (featured in the previous Outlook edition) set out with two of his dogs to do a 16 mile Remembrance walk marking the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday of his youngest dog Harry, but more importantly raising money to support Scotty's Little Soldiers.

Kerry said "I'm walking in aid of Scotty's Little Soldiers because they do an absolutely fantastic job in supporting these children. At such a young age they have been through so much and I know what a difficult time of the year Remembrance can be. It's important that we remember, remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but also the children our heroes left behind".

The 16-mile walk is a long and difficult but beautiful walk. However, on this occasion the weather made it even harder. It rained continually all day long! Kerry had fitted a GPS tracker to one dog, enabling us to follow their journey on an online map from the comfort of our home.

The walk started at 8 o'clock from outside St John's Church in Keswick. It went over Walla Crag, on to Watendlath, down to the village of Rosthwaite before climbing up to the summit of Catbells.

On a fine day it is a wonderful walk but on this occasion the conditions were very challenging. However, never once did Kerry think of abandoning the walk despite torrential rain and strong winds. It was one of the toughest walks he had ever done. His thoughts had been with the children he was supporting, throughout the walk. The two dogs, Paddy and Harry, who are well used to the Cumbrian fells were fine. They probably covered twice the distance!

During the eight hours the walk took, we had been following the route on the computer. We had observed the climb up to Watendlath and later on to Catbells. As the three made their way through the marketplace we put our waterproofs on and went out to join their loyal band of supporters to welcome them back. Max, who is 14 years old, had stayed at home, and was overjoyed to be reunited with his master and his brothers. When asked if he was exhausted, Kerry responded with "I'm fine!" I wonder how he felt the next morning?

What an achievement!

As I write this story the total of money raised is £35,146.

*Judith*

## Revised Common Lectionary

<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Liturgical Date</b>	<b>First Reading</b>
Dec-05	2nd Sun of Advent	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
Dec-12	3rd Sun of Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Dec-19	4th Sun of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a
Dec 24 & 25	Nativity - Proper I	Isaiah 9:2-7
Dec 24 & 25	Nativity - Proper II	Isaiah 62:6-12
Dec 24 & 25	Nativity - Proper III	Isaiah 52:7-10
Dec-26	1st Sun after Christmas	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Jan-02	2nd Sun after Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Jan-06	Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6
Jan-09	Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7
Jan-16	2nd Sun after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5
Jan-23	3rd Sun after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Jan-30	4th Sun after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Feb-06	5th Sun after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Feb-13	6th Sun after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10
Feb-20	7th Sun after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Feb-27	Transfiguration Sun	Exodus 34:29-35

### Christmas Charity

As usual the Christmas tree donations and Christmas Day collection will be donated to Crisis at Christmas.

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at  
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php>  
Make sure you select the correct year (A, B or C)

## Revised Common Lectionary

<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel Reading</b>
Dec-05	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec-12	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec-19	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-26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
Jan-02	Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Sol'mn 10:15-21	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Jan-06	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan-09	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan-16	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians Psalm 36:5-10	John 2:1-11
Jan-23	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan-30	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Feb-06	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Feb-13	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Feb-20	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
Feb-27	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



## The Innkeeper of Bethlehem

“There’s no room at the inn” he told them  
“We’re full up I’m sorry to say.  
Inn’s crammed with people, can’t help it.  
I’m having to turn folk away.”  
But there’s something about the young lady  
And the innkeeper shouted out “Wait!  
I suppose you could sleep in the stable  
There’s nothing else and it’s late.”  
He showed them both round to the stable  
And settled them down for the night.  
Then he left, glancing up at the heavens,  
Where a star shone unnaturally bright.  
Lighting his face with a splendour  
That no one on Earth ever saw.  
He entered the inn slightly dazzled  
Gently closing the door.

*Elsie*

## A Baptism

On September 26th Henry James William Clement was baptised by Deacon Maureen Spinks. Isabella and George, Henry’s sister and brother who had also been baptised at Emmanuel, assisted Maureen by helping to fill the font so that she could conduct the ceremony. The photograph shows the family together with Henry’s Godparents.





## Services for December

5	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
12	10.30am	Mrs Sue Cope	
19	10.30am	Elders	9 Lessons and Carols
25	<b><u>10.00am</u></b>	Elders	Christmas Day
26	10.30am	No Service	

## Services for January

2	10.30am	Mr David Ball	
9	10.30am	Mr Paul Ayliffe	
16	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
23	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Communion
30		Mrs Maggie Ayres	

## Services for February

6	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
13	10.30am	Elders	
20	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
27	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Communion?

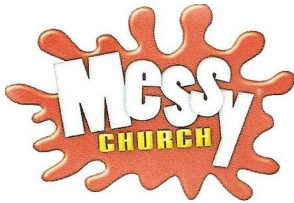
## Churches Together in Sidcup

I have served as Emmanuel's representative on this committee for 27 years., and now I shall hopefully be leaving for Weymouth in the next few months. We need someone to represent our church, it's not onerous, about five meetings a year. The next one is at Footscray Baptist Church on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.45. If anyone is interested please let me know, and I will take you and introduce you to a wonderful group of people representing the other 17 churches in the group.

God Bless you all

*Peter Thornton*

Christian Unity Service Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 6pm  
at Christchurch, Main Road.



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

We held our first Messy Church after 20 months due to Covid19 restrictions. How wonderful it was to declare "We are back".

Our Messy Angels met on the 1<sup>st</sup> September to discuss the feasibility of restarting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October as the feedback we were getting from some of our Messy Parents was, very sensibly, a reluctance to attend overcrowded venues with their young families.

To make it as safe as possible we set in place a program to restrict the number of children to 20 and only have 1 parent per family. To do this we needed to introduce an online booking system for parents to book a week in advance of the meeting. We would limit the number of craft tables to 5 instead of our previous 7. Food was a problem so we agreed that we would make up food parcels of shop packaged items like biscuits, cake, crisps, fruit and a bottled drink. Tea and coffee would be available for adults. We also decided to shorten the meeting to 1½ hours instead of 2 hours to allow for deep cleaning before and after the event.

The theme of our meeting was to be "New Beginnings". Our crafts were to be 1, Twiggy the Hedgehog, 2, Memories of everyone in face masks, 3, Noah's Ark, 4, Celery fish and 5, Rockets to the future.

We held our breaths and opened the online booking service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and all 20 places were booked within a few days.

What a wonderful time we all had. The feedback was all good with just a few comments that the food could have been a bit healthier for the children, which we took on board.



We had a planning meeting and de-brief on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and the enthusiasm of our Angels was infectious, with everyone thrilled with the outcome of our first post pandemic Messy Church meeting and the ideas for our next Messy meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November came in thick and fast. The theme would be “Remembrance”

We decided to increase the number of children to 25 to avoid too many disappointments but still just 1 parent per family. We would still have shop packaged food but look for healthier options.

### 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Theme “Remembrance”

Our idea was to make the children aware of and Remember our War Dead and Animal Suffering but also to have a bit of fun as it was so close to Firework Night.

We should have had just 25 pre-booked children this month, but 2 families came in through the side door, making an extra 5 children, not having booked, but fortunately 2 children who were booked in failed to turn up. We had made up 28 Goody Bags for the children so there was just enough to go around.

We hate to turn anyone away but Covid19 is not going away anytime soon and we must try and keep everyone safe, which is why we make the rules of pre-booking, only allowing 1 adult per family and that adult to wear a face mask. We thoroughly clean beforehand and make sure there are adequate cleaning facilities and anti-bac gel. We will have to make sure the side door is locked next month.

Our Giant Table was a drawing of our church and a large spy glass looking down on all the people going into the church. Everyone was encouraged to take part in decorating this collage.

Our Craft Tables were set out to promote the word PEACE, so P was for Poppies and the children finger painted fields of beautiful red flowers with black centres. E was for Emmanuel Church and they made some wonderful “Stained Glass Windows” to put up in the church or take home.

A was for Animals especially horses that suffered so badly in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, so we had the children create a horse with moving legs and flying mane. C was for Cross to remember, made of cardboard with a very realistic Poppy on it made from red and black tissue paper. The last letter E was for Explosions and the children had black card with lots of brightly coloured paint to brush on to make their very own Firework Display

We knew that we were going to be very short of Messy Angels this month but we just about managed. What is it they say? With a bit of luck and a following wind. Phew!

Come and join our happy band of Angels. It is hard work but the reward is worth it just to see the look of absolute pleasure on a child’s face as they concentrate on creating their Masterpiece.

*Roger*

## Peace and Positivity

On a recent visit to Cumbria, a peaceful walk in the Wythop valley led us through the village of Embleton. There, in an isolated location we came across the Church of St Cuthberts. The Church door was open and welcomed us into a haven of peace and tranquillity. Our eyes were attracted to a beautiful quilt hanging on one of the walls and labelled Peace and Positivity. It had been created by members of the Church community during the period of lockdown. What an inspiration !

The present Church dates from 1806, although Christians have worshipped there since at least 1210AD. Restoration was carried out between 1883 and 1892. It is a small church seating only 75 people but holding regular services. St Cuthberts is part of the Binsey Mission Community within the diocese of Carlisle. The Church is situated in the midst of a farming community surrounded by some beautiful scenery.

*Cont p 17*



Peace and Positivity is a community project begun in March 2021 during the third lockdown of covid 19 pandemic and completed in August of the same year. The Positive or Plus or Cross design (known by quilters as a 'block') was chosen as a universal and inclusive symbol. The main reason for choosing that particular block was that it represented a positive and hopeful look to the future. It is also easy to make - that was important so that non-sewers in the community could contribute.

One hundred and four blocks were made. They are arranged to show darkness moving into light; the dark times of the pandemic moving to better times.

The dove was added as an ancient and universal symbol of peace.

Once completed the intention was for the quilt to also be a reference to the losses and memories of the pandemic.

Included on the wall-hanging is the cross of St Cuthbert and a reference to the floor tiles of the church. Those of you with good eyesight will also see another positive symbol in the border.

Please enjoy our quilt.



In the Church there is a feeling of quiet, calm and welcome. It is somewhere to reflect and contemplate. The Church seemed so well loved and cared for. Members had also made colourful kneelers dedicated to local people. The visitor is invited to “explore, rest a while, reflect and enjoy “ which is what we did and to which we will return!

According to tradition, churches which are dedicated to St Cuthbert mark places where monks from Lindisfarne rested with his coffin, protecting his remains from the Vikings when they attacked Lindisfarne in 875AD.

On display I found a copy of St. Cuthbert’s Prayer

*Almighty God, who didst call thy servant, Cuthbert, from keeping sheep; to follow thy Son and to be a shepherd of thy people. Mercifully grant that we, following his example, and caring for those who are lost, may bring them home to thy fold. Through thy son Jesus Christ our lord.  
Amen*

*Judith*



## Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.00am 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 are needed desperately. Please see Marion Parfitt if you can help.**



## Sunday Coffee

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

Donations to Church Funds



### ROTA

Dec	5	Pam and Jennifer	Jan	23	Pam & Jennifer
	12	Ethel and Maureen		30	Ethel and Maureen
	19	Mandy and Judith	Feb	6	Judith & Mandy
	26	No service		13	Chislehurst
Jan	2	Roger & Christine		20	Pat & Marion
	9	Pat & Marion		27	Roger & Christine
	16	Ann and Maryia			

### Please Note

The closing date for copy for the **Mar / Apr / May** Outlook will be Thursday 17<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 Manna Society

Thank you for Emmanuel Church's Harvest Festival gifts to the Manna Centre. The food that we have received will be used throughout the next twelve months to provide meals to some of the poorest members of our society.

Due to the restrictions placed on us by the Coronavirus outbreak, we have had to limit our normal services. Since July 2020 we have been providing approximately 120 daily takeaway meals, consisting of a hot dinner and a sandwich to anyone who is homeless or in need. A sign that things are improving is that from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021, we have been able to allow 15 socially distanced rough sleepers back into the centre to access food, toilet and washing facilities from 8am to 9.30am. Our takeaway meal and clothing services continue to operate from 10.30am to 1.00pm, 7 days a week.

From April last year we set up a telephone helpline, which operates, from Monday to Friday with an advice worker available to speak directly to those in need between 10am and 1pm. In August 2021 we helped 78 clients via this service. A more detailed report giving a brief synopsis of what we achieved and the issues that arose can be found at [www.mannasociety.org.uk/2020/04/13/telephone-helpline-weekly-reports/](http://www.mannasociety.org.uk/2020/04/13/telephone-helpline-weekly-reports/)

In addition to our telephone helpline, we are also seeing clients face to face (or at least via laptops) in the centre itself. This is by appointment only. In August, 65 clients were assisted via this service. Again, more information about this service can be found at the above webpage.

The work we do here is a practical and compassionate response to poverty and homelessness. The majority of our funding and our foodstuffs come from the Christian community. Without the continuing generosity of our supporters, we would be unable to continue our work.

We are dependent on voluntary donations to raise approx. 85% of our annual budget. Without your support we would be unable to offer the services we do. Any help you can give, financially or practically (food or men's clothing) throughout the year, will benefit some of the poorest members of our society.

On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity please accept our thanks.

Best wishes,

*Paddy* Paddy Boyle Manna Society Administrator

Tele: 020 7357 9363 (Option 3)

The Manna Society, 12 Melior Street, London SE1 3QP

[www.mannasociety.org.uk](http://www.mannasociety.org.uk) / [www.facebook.com/TheMannaSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMannaSociety/) / [@MannaCentre](https://www.instagram.com/MannaCentre)



# 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



# Weekday Activities

Monday	2.00pm 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Monday Fellowship (except Bank Hols) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sidcup Beavers 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sidcup Cub Scouts 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10. 00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10.00am—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



MINISTER

Awaiting new Minister

CHURCH SECRETARY

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