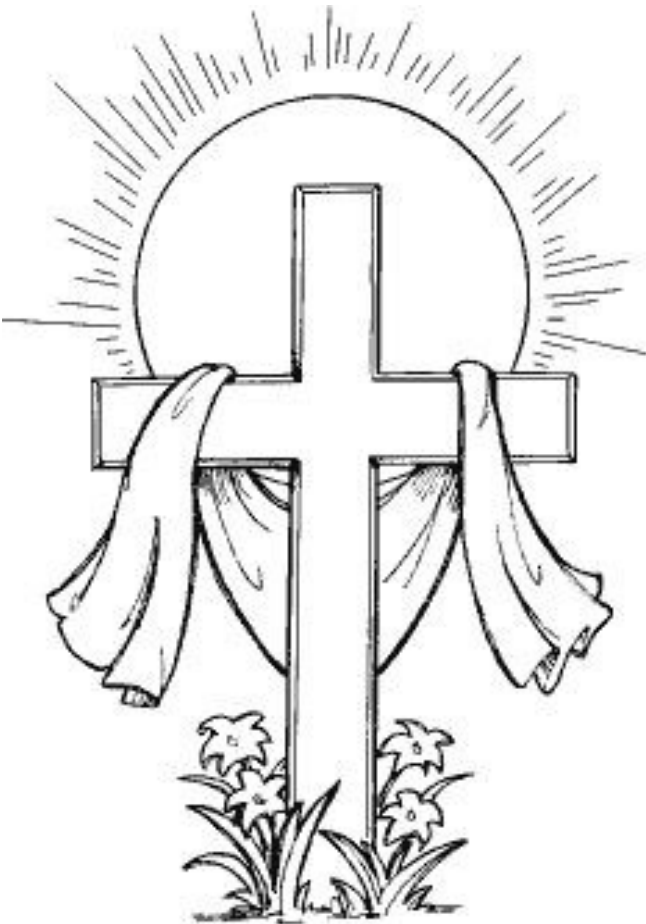


THE
OUTLOOK

MARCH TO MAY
2022



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Letter from the Interim Moderator

Let me begin by expressing my really deep sorrow on learning of Philip's death. Jennifer and her family have been in my prayers each evening. And when Jennifer looks for strength to carry on through these dark days God is there. What a wonderful back-stop is our Father. I know there will be fuller observations in this issue.

The format of a service varies from one church to another. Some churches are very heavy on theology while others prefer an address containing references to current events. No matter...prayer is an integral part of every service. Of course that is no surprise. The New Testament is especially full of verses incorporating prayer. One of the most encouraging is Luke 18:1 where Jesus expounds a parable to His disciples "that they should always pray and never become discouraged." There are no 'rules' about how we should pray and it is good to try new ways that challenge or change our understanding of prayer. I took this quote from a Methodist church web-site. "Prayer is the spiritual gymnasium in which we exercise and practice godliness." Or one that appears on many church notice boards "Seven days without prayer makes one weak." Maybe oft used but still enormously relevant. Perhaps a challenge for many churches is to search for new methods of praying to our Father. God must find it refreshing to look at congregations which are actively trying to stimulate worship.

Guy H. King is quoted as saying, "No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it but he suffers from it!" Or, as William Inge states, "Prayer gives a man the opportunity of getting to know a gentleman he hardly ever meets. I do not mean his Maker, but himself." And of course these quotes apply to women as well!!

We often pray for peace in our services. People say we are mad to pray for peace but, as Christians, we must *always* trust in the power of prayer. One of the greatest words in any language is Salam or Shalom in the Hebraic. It is often translated simply as "peace". Strong's Concordance tells us that it includes completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony and the absence of agitation or discord. So there we are!! Pity we did not have an adequate English translation.

Peace is one of our greatest words. We can think of the wonderful legacy we have from our Lord. John 14:27 is one of the great verses in the Bible. "Peace is what I leave with you – it is not My peace that I give you. I do not give at as the world does. Do not be worried and upset. Do not be afraid." And these are some of the most comforting words we could ever find. The One who defied death is telling us not to be afraid or worried. Would that more people simply listen to the voice of Jesus and be more at

peace with themselves. Isn't it amazing how clarity of thought develops when we listen carefully to Jesus? This does not require conjecture. It is a simple statement from Jesus - either we believe Him and receive His peace or we don't.

The words of our Lord were translated from the original Aramaic into Greek then into English. (Key in "Bible translations" to Wikipedia and you find an excellent series of articles about this topic.) Translation from one language to another does tend to lose original sharpness. I have already held up Shalom as an example. But so many English passages of the Bible have not lost their tremendous significance and value. Surely the hand of God is at work here.

The ancients always thought of peace as a positive jewel. It is not something with which you are born and carry around on your shoulders. Because it is positive it must be actively pursued and is a goal to which people work very hard to achieve. But peace in our own and other lives does not happen by accident. It has to be attained. We have to work at it. The anonymous writer tells us "Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of God no matter what the conflict." Paul was fully aware of this when he told us in Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."

If we do not have more peace and enthusiasm after praying this seems to suggest that we are not meeting God at a deep level and need to review how we pray. The peace of Jesus is far greater than that described in any other context. And surely that is the real peace. The peace to which we must all prescribe. It is indeed impossible to describe the real peace to which we Christians can attain. Words simply fail to describe the sense in its truest meaning.

Jesus did not come to this earth to quote a few well-worded comments then leave the scene for good, never to return. He told us He would leave us His peace. Now this state of mind is such that *millions of people on this earth* would pay *billions* to achieve. Think of all the "agony aunts" charging sometimes exorbitant fees to lower anguish in people. But the truth is that the peace of Jesus: the real peace: the peace that transcends every worry and every care *is free*. Now in our material society anything that is free or low priced must be viewed with scepticism and, in many cases, rightly so. But the peace of Jesus is really free. And it is something that the Church offers. It is not a gift that people can take home, nicely wrapped up. It is something for which they must strive. Perhaps when we are trying to attract people into or back into the church that we miss the real jewels we have to offer. Perhaps we concentrate on other issues that do not have the same benefits. But surely we must try to elevate our thoughts above the every day worries and complaints to meet Jesus and say "thank You for Your peace".

Read your Bible. Look up your Concordance. The word “peace” appears everywhere. It keeps popping up all over the place. 1194 times in the Bible. Those who do not want to find will not find. But all are potential converts to the camp where *they do try to find*. Peace with God. Peace with others. Let us pray that more will come to desire this peace which can only be found through Jesus. And the church is the very best way to augment the seeker on his or her way to this peace.

Colin Watson

The Our Father

This article was sent to Colin Watson some time ago.

The Our Father contains everything: God, ourselves, our neighbours.

I cannot say **OUR** if I keep my faith only to myself and never share it with others.

I cannot say **FATHER** if I do not trust in His loving and complete concern for me forgetting that He always answers prayers how and when He knows is best.

I cannot say **WHO ART IN HEAVEN** if I am so attached to the ways of this world that I neglect to seek God first in everything.

I cannot say **HALLOWED BE THY NAME** if I am unwilling to let His holiness penetrate my life and help me grow in my own holiness.

I cannot say **THY KINGDOM COME** if I am not using my life to bring His love into the world.

I cannot say **THY WILL BE DONE** if I live by my own ideas of morality or choose to follow the world's standards.

I cannot say **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** if I am not devoting my life to serving Him here on earth.

I cannot say **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD** if I am not willing to be generous with whatever God gives me.

I cannot say **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES** if I don't want to put forth enough effort to change.

I cannot say **AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US** if I still hold a grudge, if I'm still angry or if I still insist that other people change.

I cannot say **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION** if I deliberately or knowingly place myself in a position to be tempted.

I cannot say **DELIVER US FROM EVIL** if I'm not actively fighting against evil through deeds of love and service for everyone in my life, especially those who cause problems.

This is not only something nice to know ourselves. We should always practise what we pray to God. Action always speaks louder than words and/or thoughts.

May the Good Lord bless and keep you in His ways! Amen.

Pastoral News

Emmanuel Church has been very saddened by the death of Philip Willson. Our love, prayers and thoughts continue to be with Jennifer, Jane and Robert and the whole family. Philip's funeral service was a wonderful celebration of his life. The Church was full. What a tribute to Philip! How pleased he would have been to see the bus group's London bus and all the Triumph cars. The eulogies presented at the service are printed further on in this magazine.

Our prayers are with Audrey Fish who has been feeling unwell recently. We hope she will begin to feel better after she has undergone further tests. We have missed her at Church on a Sunday and at coffee mornings on a Friday.

Congratulations to Angharad and Mark McDonald on the birth of their daughter Zara on December 10th 2021. Liz Rees is now a proud grandmother. Ruth Dunster was delighted to become a great-grandmother. It was lovely to meet Zara in Church on Christmas Day. Please remember Ruth in your prayers. She gets very tired and spends most of her time in her flat. She loves to hold Zara and recently made her smile, which was lovely. She always says how grateful she is for the support of her family.

Jenni and Peter Thornton are still waiting for a date for their move to Dorset. It is lovely to have their company for a little longer. We wish them all the best in their new home. We will certainly miss them at Emmanuel when they finally go.

Please remember our members in Care homes. Doris Willson is in Baugh House. Lorna New and Freda Skinner are in St Margaret's. Pray for them all.

It is still important for us to take care, the pandemic is still with us. We are sorry to hear that some members have tested positive for Covid. We hope that everyone who has been affected will make a good recovery.

4th Sidcup Guides Trip to Harry Potter World.

Liz Rees, one of our leaders, used her 'Jack Petchey Award' to take the company on a trip to Harry Potter World. The Guides paid a fraction of the normal cost. The award paid the rest.

The 17 guides and 4 leaders took the train (from Eltham as no trains on the Sidcup line) to St Pancras, crossed to Kings Cross (next door) to visit platform 9¾ but sadly could not get through the wall to catch the train to Hogwarts School.

Therefore we had to walk to Euston (via the outside of the new British library) to catch the train to Watford. There we caught the shuttle bus to Harry Potter world for the 13.30 entry. We ate our picnic in the cafe before entering and starting our magical self-guided tour of the world of Harry Potter and friends.

The girls went off in groups of 3 or 4, visiting Dumbledore's study; Harry and Ron's bedroom; broomsticks to fly; trains to sit on; strange creatures to frighten or be frightened by; Diagon Alley to shop; Gringotts Bank and the Goblins to explore; and to collect passport stamps.

Having had a marvellous day, we travelled via shuttle bus/train/tube/train back to Eltham by 6.15.

2021 may have started with a whimper but it ended with a BANG!

Maggie Williams



Monday Fellowship

Valentines Happy Hour

Valentines day was celebrated at our Monday Fellowship with an invitation to everyone to join us. It was a good turn out with visitors made welcome to our club. The hall was decorated with balloons and hearts, but I don't think any new romances were started. There were cakes and biscuits with our tea, which went down well.

Pat George had put together a fantastic raffle and it turned out to be the highlight, with the prizes being won – completely legally mostly by members of her family. They had bought so many tickets it was no surprise!

The atmosphere was really lovely with everyone happy and laughing. It was nice to see young people there and helping with the washing up etc.

Our main reason other than fellowship was to raise some much needed revenue for our children that we support in Kenya. We currently have 2 children and we were able to put £80 towards that. We also sent £95 to Christian Aid for the Afghan appeal.

The hall is so lovely and warm that when anyone new comes in it is a wonderful welcome and as the group who normally follow us were not meeting we were able to stay longer as no one was eager to go home.

Our next get together will be advertised and I hope you will join us again.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Marion & Pat

Food Bank Report February 2022

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.

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

Fruit Juice
* Toilet Rolls
Kitchen Rolls
* Bottles of Squash
Small packets of sugar
Tins of soup
* Rice Pudding
• Noodles
• Shaving Gel and Razors
They currently have a surplus of:
Tins of Beans
Pasta
Biscuits



Services for March

| | | | |
|----|---------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 6 | 10.30am | Mrs Val Loader | |
| 13 | 10.30am | Mr David Ball | |
| 20 | 10.30am | Mr Paul Ayliffe | |
| 27 | 10.30am | Mr John Twidale | Mothering Sunday. BST starts |

Services for April

| | | | |
|----|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 | 10.30am | Mrs Val Loader | |
| 10 | 10.30am | Mr Martin Leonard | Communion |
| 14 | 7.30pm | Geddes Place | Maundy Thursday service |
| 15 | 9.30am | Walk of Witness | Good Friday |
| 17 | 8.30am | Bexley URC | Easter Breakfast |
| 17 | 10.30am | Miss Deborah Spinks | Easter Sunday |
| 24 | 10.30am | Mr David Ball | |

Services for May

| | | | |
|----|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 10.30am | Mr Ralph Brandhorst | |
| 8 | 10.30am | Mr Martin Leonard | Communion |
| 15 | 10.30am | Elders | |
| 22 | 10.30am | Mr John Twidale | |
| 29 | 10.30am | Miss Deborah Spinks | |

Easter Prayer

This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

Christian Aid

In 2022, Christian Aid Week will take place from **15th to 21st May**.

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate.

If you wish to donate you can go to:-

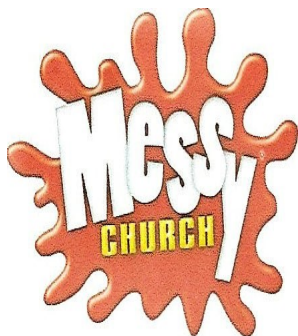
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>
or by phoning **020 7523 2046**

World Day of Prayer

I Know the Plans I Have for You

The service at Christ Church on Fri 4th March was very inspiring. Every one was given a packet of Sunflower seeds to take home and plant. By coincidence these are the national flower of Ukraine.

Next year the service will be at Emmanuel.



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

**March 12th 4.00 to 5.30pm
Spring**

Although we cancelled Messy Church in January and February due to the resurgence in Covid, the December meeting had been about Christmas with a special visit from Father Christmas.

We would welcome more volunteer helpers to help us continue with Messy Church in the future.

Judith

Churches Together in Sidcup

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The usual Walk of Witness will be held on Good Friday.

We plan to meet at St John's Church, Church Road, at 9.30am when we will have a hymn and a prayer before starting the walk.

This year we decided to have our first "stop" outside St John's, then will proceed via Church Avenue round into the High Street.

Our second stop will be outside "The Gym", third outside the Hill Top Tap (opposite the old Police Station) and finish on the green opposite Christ Church who will be providing the coffees and hot cross buns.

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

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|-----|----|-------------------|
| Mar | 6 | Ann and Maryia | Apr | 24 | Ethel and Kathy |
| | 13 | Ethel and Maureen | | | |
| | 20 | Pat & Marion | May | 1 | Judith & Mandy |
| | 27 | Mandy and Judith | | 8 | Pat & Marion |
| | | | | 15 | Roger & Christine |
| Apr | 3 | Roger & Christine | | 22 | Pam & Jennifer |
| | 10 | Pam & Jennifer | | 29 | Ann and Maryia |
| | 17 | Ann and Maryia | | | |

Please Note

The closing date for copy for the **Jun / Jly / Aug** Outlook will be Thursday 19th May

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

Flower Fund



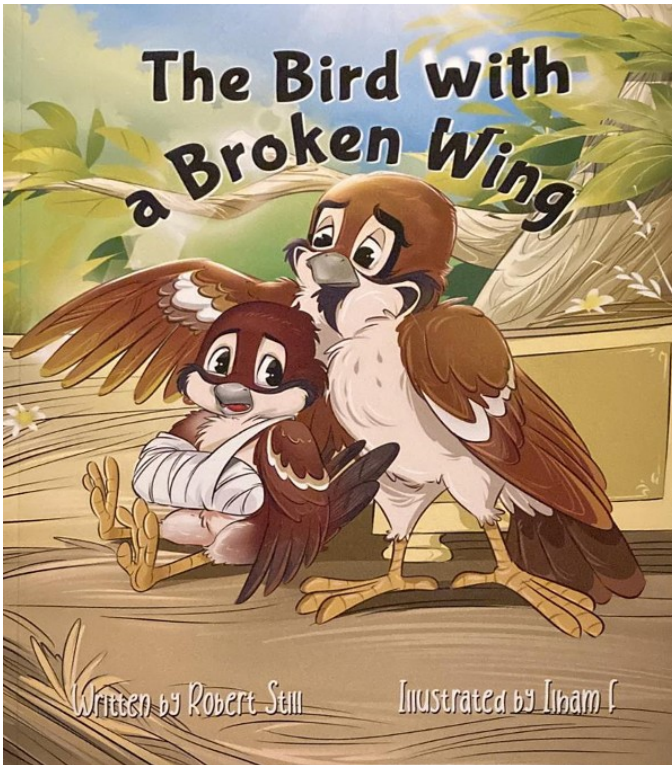
A Flower Fund has now been set up in order to ensure there is always a lovely display each week in the Church.

Marion Parfitt is the Flower Secretary. She will welcome any monetary donations if you wish to celebrate any special events like anniversaries or birthdays etc. Please contact her if you would like to do your own flower arrangement on a particular day.

Ed

The Bird With a Broken Wing

It was just after Christmas that Doreen Still very proudly showed us her very special Christmas gift from her grandson Robert.



Robert remembered a story his grandmother had told him when he was a small boy about a bird with a broken wing. Doreen's grandson has modernised and published her delightful tale with beautiful illustrations.

After church I placed my order on Amazon for a copy to gift to our granddaughter who loves a story or two, even more especially at bedtime. -I am sure this will be a favourite.

Thank you Doreen for sharing your special gift with us all.

Maryia Long

Revised Common Lectionary

| Calendar Date | Liturgical Date | First Reading | Psalm |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Mar-02 | Ash Wednesday | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 | Psalm 51:1-17 |
| Mar-06 | 1st Sun in Lent | Deuteronomy 26:1-11 | Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 |
| Mar-13 | 2nd Sun in Lent | Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 | Psalm 27 |
| Mar-20 | 3rd Sun in Lent | Isaiah 55:1-9 | Psalm 63:1-8 |
| Mar-27 | 4th Sun in Lent | Joshua 5:9-12 | Psalm 32 |
| Apr-03 | 5th Sun in Lent | Isaiah 43:16-21 | Psalm 126 |
| Apr-10 | Liturgy of the Palms | | Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 |
| Apr-10 | Liturgy of the Passion | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Psalm 31:9-16 |
| Apr-14 | Maundy Thursday | Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 | Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 |
| Apr-15 | Good Friday | Isaiah 52:13-53:12 | Psalm 22 |
| Apr-17 | Resurrection of the Lord | Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 |
| Apr-24 | 2nd Sun of Easter | Acts 5:27-32 | Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 |
| May-01 | 3rd Sun of Easter | Acts 5:27-32 | Psalm 30 |
| May-08 | 4th Sun of Easter | Acts 9:36-43 | Psalm 23 |
| May-15 | 5th Sun of Easter | Acts 11:1-18 | Psalm 148 |
| May-22 | 6th Sun of Easter | Acts 16:9-15 | Psalm 67 |
| May-26 | Ascension of the Lord | Acts 1:1-11 | Psalm 47 or 93 |
| May-29 | 7th Sun of Easter | Acts 16:16-34 | Psalm 97 |

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

| Calendar Date | Second Reading | Gospel Reading |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Mar-02 | 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 |
| Mar-06 | Romans 10:8b-13 | Luke 4:1-13 |
| Mar-13 | Philippians 3:17-4:1 | Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a) |
| Mar-20 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 | Luke 13:1-9 |
| Mar-27 | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 |
| Apr-03 | Philippians 3:4b-14 | John 12:1-8 |
| Apr-10 | | Luke 19:28-40 |
| Apr-10 | Philippians 2:5-11 | Luke 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49 |
| Apr-14 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |
| Apr-15 | Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9 | John 18:1-19:42 |
| Apr-17 | 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 | John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 |
| Apr-24 | Revelation 1:4-8 | John 20:19-31 |
| May-01 | Revelation 5:11-14 | John 21:1-19 |
| May-08 | Revelation 7:9-17 | John 10:22-30 |
| May-15 | Revelation 21:1-6 | John 13:31-35 |
| May-22 | Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 | John 14:23-29 or 5:1-9 |
| May-26 | Ephesians 1:15-23 | Luke 24:44-53 |
| May-29 | Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 | John 17:20-26 |

Christmas Collections

The Christmas Tree collection was £36, and the Retiring Collection from the Christmas Day Service was £140. With other donations, £206 was donated to Crisis.

Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Ed

Zoom Lent Course - Starts 16th March

Everyone is invited to engage with a Zoom Lent Course led by Deacon Maureen Spinks

5 Sessions from Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm.

Taken from the book 'River through the Desert' by Richard Sewell

And includes video clips from the Holy land.

This book is available through Amazon but the book is not necessary to engage with the course.

Contact the Circuit administrator, orpingtonchislehurst@gmail.com
or Deacon Maureen for the Zoom link.

Pastorate News

Peter Lake and I attended a Pastorate Leader's meeting on Jan 17th. It was arranged that there would be a Maundy Thursday service at Geddes Place and an Easter Breakfast at Bexley URC. Everyone at Emmanuel is invited to these events.

There will be a Pastorate Service in October at Emmanuel.

There was a Pastorate Lunch at Sophie's Choice on Mar 8th which was enjoyed by all who attended. There was a lovely atmosphere. Unfortunately some people tested positive for Covid and could not attend.

It is the 50th birthday of the URC this year. Various celebrations will take place throughout the year which will be publicised.

There will be a 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on 1-10-22 in Methodist Central Hall in the afternoon. Free tickets are available and can be obtained via the Eventbrite booking system bit.ly/urc50.

Judith

The Outreach Group

As you all know, some of the ladies of the congregation have for many years held fundraising events for children's charities. Our annual quiz nights always raised a lot of money.

Because of COVID it has not been possible to continue with this so it was decided to send all the money in our account to Hope and Homes for Children.

The total was £1206 and we received a lovely letter from the charity saying how much this money would help with rehoming children from government run orphanages. To date they have closed nearly all the orphanages in some of the Baltic States and Romania, giving hundreds of children a proper home and family and future. All the Outreach Group would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past.

Jenni Thornton

These are the Eulogies read at the funeral service of Philip Willson on March 1st in Emmanuel Church.

Tribute to Philip Willson by his Brother Alan

On behalf of Jennifer, Jane and Robert, can I start by thanking you all for coming today and celebrating Philip's life. They have been overwhelmed with text messages, cards and letters. Jane picked out some of the recurring phrases.

Always willing to go above and beyond to help

Generous with his time and advice and always helped everyone

Good laugh, funny

Enthusiastic for new tasks

Inspired his team

Decent knowledgeable and well liked

A true gentleman – kind, helpful and supportive

One of the nicest men you could wish to meet

I want to share some memories of Philip as his younger brother.

What does a big brother do?

When you are young, a big brother is a brave pioneer, one who conquers Torridon Road Primary and the Roan school so you can blaze your own trail.

He is big and strong and generously toughens you up by getting unreasonable or violent when you thought you were playing nicely.

He remembers embarrassing stuff about you to tell other people.

He is so good at woodwork, making Airfix kits and using a soldering iron that he discourages competition.

He tells you stuff you didn't need to know like why Routemasters are the best ever buses and how to tell RM3 from RM8 at 100 yards.

He tells you other stuff you didn't know you needed to know like the day when I was 9 or 10 and he returned from school and told me in strict confidence something he had learned in Religious Studies that day. He explained all about where babies came from and several other things I hadn't really thought about yet.

He uses language my father would never use - words like Head Gasket and Swarfega came out at the dinner table.

He takes you to exotic places like Streatham or even Grays in Essex. These were all-day outings he planned on 3 shilling red Rover tickets, collecting bus numbers and being chased out of bus garages. He was in charge. I was cheese on the days I was allowed to go too.

He is a genius and hero who saves the family holiday in the Lake District by repairing a broken throttle and driving for miles pulling a screwdriver attached by way of some string to a smelly part of the engine.

He tries to show you that cars that don't work are a good thing. Like a Hillman Imp where you need to take the engine out every weekend to change a light bulb or inflate the tyres. Or the ultimate car – I think why it's called a Triumph – is the one where the bonnet is so big you just open it and can easily get to all the important bits so you can spend all your time repairing it. You almost never have to drive it.

A big brother is generous in letting me come on his holiday with his friend John Wood as we were thrilled by the freedom of the road and the inevitable steam railways

When you are 17, he lends you his pride and joy car so you can chase your social life. I repaid him by filling the ash trays and then wrote off his best ever car. He didn't tell me off – just worried I was safe.

He tirelessly investigates your family tree and finds indiscretions that thought they were safely forgotten.

As you get older, he and Jennifer even give you board and lodging to get you over a tough patch.

Most important, my big brother has demonstrated how to live a contented and valuable life – happy to be and to do. Philip's happiness is never about having things or worrying what others have.

Lately, he has shown us all how to cope with and even joke about getting sick. He put up with so many procedures and new routines. In spite of setbacks and disappointments, he constantly praised and thanked the people who were there to care for him.

As you will hear in a moment, he also shows what happens when you are a great Dad and a Grandad.

When I visited Philip on the day before he died, the district nurse was just leaving. She said "he must be a really lovely man. You reap what you sow". Like me, she could see something very special in that room and the unstinting care taken by Jennifer, Jane and Robert: sharing that time with him and making sure he could feel their love.

I am proud that he has shown his kindness to so many people and that so many of you have known him through family life, visits to rallies, museums, local history and fixing broken buses. I am proud he is my big brother and that, while we miss him, his care and his example lives on with us all.

Tribute to Philip Willson by his Son, Robert

What to say about Dad? As you can imagine with a man like him – someone whose life was packed full of the people and pastimes that he loved –

the challenge in writing this was never going to be in thinking of something to say. I'd like to share some thoughts on behalf of Mum, Jane and I about Philip as a loving Husband and Father, and the most important man in our lives.

The story of our immediate family began on what was probably an otherwise unremarkable day in East Ham, 1975. Jennifer Blows, a budding and beautiful young amateur actress, turned up to a rehearsal at the Combined Theatre Group, as she had done on countless occasions previously, only to be introduced to a dark and handsome stranger by the name of Philip Willson. One L in Philip, Two Ls in Willson. He had been drafted in by some mutual friends to take care of the sound for an upcoming production. They must have hit it off straight away because they were married a year later, both realising pretty quickly that they were onto a good thing. Some notable dates since then (to save any arguments I'll list them in chronological order rather than in order of importance...)

1981: The birth of a daughter, Jane.

1984: The birth of a son, Robert.

1985: The purchase of a white Triumph Herald 13/60 Estate... Tottie, as we affectionately called her, presented Dad with the opportunity of a lifetime of Sunday afternoons spent taking her apart and putting her back together again. It must easily have been the best £300 he ever spent. Tottie remains part of the family to this day.

Sorry, I got distracted by a car there – Dad would be proud.

Mum and Dad seemed to complement each other perfectly, which no doubt explains the longevity of their relationship. Always happy and content in each other's company, they have been the most loving and supportive parents Jane and I could have hoped for. Dad may never have converted Mum into a transport nut, but she was always happy for him to indulge in his hobbies, and she could even be seen at the occasional car, bus or steam rally (even if she used much of these as an opportunity to read a good book). Likewise, Dad wasn't a church-goer like Mum, but he was always supportive of her involvement here at Emmanuel and would often do bits and pieces to help out.

One of the things that I love most about Dad was how content he was; I think probably he got life's balance pretty much right. He worked at Queen Mary College in Mile End for 37 years. I don't suppose he relished the sound of the alarm clock every morning, or the thought of the commute, but it strikes me that his time there was mostly pretty happy and stress-free. I'm sure that, had he wanted to, he could have progressed to higher positions within the college or elsewhere, but to do so would have doubtless encroached on time that he'd rather have spent with his family, or working on whichever car was in the garage at the time. He built lasting relationships with colleagues and students alike, many of whom have been in contact over the last few weeks. Jane and I would occasionally go into work with Dad when we were younger, and I

remember there being no shortage of friendly faces stopping by his office to say hello or to suggest popping over the road for a coffee.

That's not to say retirement wasn't welcome, though, and there was never any chance Dad was going to spend his days lounging on the sofa watching daytime TV. Instead, retirement meant more time with Mum, more time down at the farm working on buses and coaches belonging to him and his friends, more time doing up cars (he's had two immaculate Triumph Stags in recent years that even I can appreciate), and, of most importance to him, plenty of time to dedicate to his two children and five beloved grandchildren, all of whom are going to miss him very much.

One of Dad's latest projects, much to his grandkids' approval, was a huge model railway in my old bedroom. While chatting to Mum, not long before he died, Dad said "The problem is, if I'd finished it, I'd have got bored with it and would have wanted to do something else". And that was Dad all over – it was never really about the final product, or how fancy it looked, he just enjoyed the doing.

Dad's hobbies provided not only a source of fulfilment for himself, but also a huge network of like-minded friends; many of whom became invaluable companions for Dad *and* Mum over the years.

Be it the Local History Society, Triumph Sports Six Club, the Routemaster Association, the North-West Kent Vehicle Preservation Group, RM8 Club, the Forest Hill Classic Car Club or the Greenwich Mean Old-Timers, Dad didn't just belong to these clubs – he was a prominent and well-loved member, serving variously as Secretary, Treasurer, and certainly resident expert where he didn't have an official role. Whenever Dad became interested in something new, you could be sure that he wouldn't settle on just knowing a little bit about it – he would end up becoming an authority on the subject. And he was passionate about sharing his knowledge and passing it on, through conversations, offers of practical help to whoever needed it, and through writing more than 170 articles for the Triumph Sports Six Club's Courier Magazine.

Family holidays are a source of many happy memories for us. Trips to Devon, Scotland, Austria and Germany; never your standard beach holiday, we would go to places of interest, often tied in with meeting or staying with friends Dad had made through work, or some sort of connection made through classic cars that we never quite understood. As his interest in genealogy grew, it wasn't uncommon as part of a holiday to find ourselves traipsing around a graveyard hunting for the headstone of some distant great great uncle or fifth cousin twice removed. We didn't mind, though – time spent together as a four was always special and we'll treasure those memories forever.

Dad's role as a dedicated family man was, of course, not limited to the lives of his wife and descendants. He was also a treasured son, brother, brother-in-law, father-in-law, uncle, nephew, cousin... It says it all that one of Dad's cousins, Sue, asked him to give her away at her wedding a couple of years back,

an honour that I know he was incredibly proud and moved to undertake. And no one can overestimate the amount of time and care that both Mum and Dad have taken in caring for *his* Mum, Doris, in recent years.

Dad had a great sense of humour. Drawn instinctively towards the comic absurdities of Spike Milligan, Douglas Adams and The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, he never missed an opportunity to do or say something a bit silly – much to the amusement of those around him.

Above all, he was a warm, kind, generous and gentle man who would never wish ill of anyone, and who saw the best in everyone.

A lot is often made of how successful a person's life is, with a tendency to focus on wealth and material things. But, as we look back and remember the important things in Dad's life...

a long and happy marriage, loving relationships with his children, grandchildren and wider family, genuine and caring friendships from all corners of his life that have stood the test of time, and that Jane and I feel confident will provide support and companionship to Mum for many years to come, and countless hours, days, weeks, months and years spent doing all the things that he loved doing

...all those things that actually matter, that truly bring happiness, fulfilment and contentment, I'd challenge anyone to show me a more successful life. Philip, Dad, Grandad – we love you, and no matter how sad we feel that you're no longer here, we will always remember how lucky we are to have had you in our lives.

Memories of Grandad (read by Peter Thornton)

One of Philip's most important roles in the last 9 years was that of being a Grandad. Philip loved being a grandad and was so proud of all his grandchildren, and they all thought the world of him too.

As they were such an important part of his life, we wanted to give them the chance to talk about their Grandad today. Here is what they had to say:

Anya, age 8, said: "Grandad was really special to me! He was a funny and caring Grandad! He played with us so much and we loved doing that! I really wish he was here. I love my Grandad!"

Joseph, age 5, said: "I love Grandad. He's a very funny Grandad with his long yellow bent things. He made us smile. He was clever, kind and helpful. I liked it when he took us to the café for a gingerbread man."

For those of you who may be wondering, long yellow bent things are what Philip called bananas when talking to the children!

Anya and Joseph particularly enjoyed the silly songs that Grandad played to them, which were mainly by the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.

Albie, Flynn and Louis called Philip “Grandad Buses”. As you all knew Philip we’re sure that that name requires no explanation!

Albie, age 7, said "It was fun when we got to sit in Grandad's yellow car at the car show."

Flynn, age 5, said "Grandad always used to show us photos of his Daddy and Grandad and other people."

Flynn is referring to Philip’s hobby of researching his family history which he had been doing for many years, and he had a vast collection of old family photographs.

Louis, age 3, said "He showed us the trains one day"..

During lockdowns Philip built a model railway in the spare room. All the grandchildren loved this and have all talked about it since losing their Grandad. It’s something that we plan to keep going as a special tribute to Philip and to help the children to remember him.

Just after Philip died, Anya wrote poems for her Gran, Mum and Uncle, and we’d like to share one of them with you now.

A Poem for Gran

“He will be with us forever,
Just like we were when we were together,
He will still be with us,
Even when we’re on the bus.
He’ll hold us tight when we’re sad,
And hold our hand when we have been bad.
He used to be so lively and quick,
Then he became sick,
We think of him this very day,
And while we play.
When it’s bedtime and we turn out the light,
He will hold us and we will snuggle tight through the night.”

Thank You

Thank you to all at Emmanuel for your cards, messages and support during the last few months. It was good to know you were thinking of us.

Jennifer



proudly presents...

An amateur production in arrangement with Concorde Theatricals

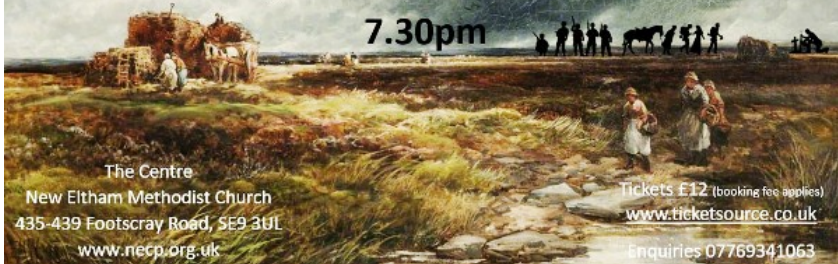
THE HIRED MAN

Book by Melvyn Bragg

Music and Lyrics by Howard Goodall

21st, 22nd & 23rd April 2022

7.30pm



The Centre
New Eitham Methodist Church
435-439 Footscray Road, SE9 3UL
www.necp.org.uk

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Storm Eunice

I always look forward to returning to our beloved Cumbria, but Storm Eunice rather got in the way on a recent visit. After a very wet journey with visibility limited by spray from the heavy lorries on the A1, a break appeared in the dark clouds allowing shafts of light to illuminate a wonderful panorama ahead of the Cumbrian fells. It was just as if a torch was shining on the mountains. It was a moment to treasure, for it didn't last long before the sun went into hiding again.

In the days that followed we saw a great deal of rain, very little of the mountains, and we battled with the gale force winds much of the time.

However, when the rain stopped and the clouds dispersed to let the sun appear, the mountains in all their grandeur once again delighted us, if only briefly in a welcoming and friendly way.

After a day of persistent rain the clouds gave way to the sun setting in a pink sky. Beautiful! Despite the frightening storms and extremely strong winds, on the skyline the peaks stood firm and proud. On the fells the nooks and crannies, the boulders and rocks, the zig zag tracks, the stone walls were still there. The streams were overflowing and gushing as waterfalls.

It was still my idea of paradise! The weather is always in charge but it cannot change the mountains. As Alfred Wainwright wrote '**the mountains are eternal**'. There will be fair winds and foul, days of sun and days of rain, but the peaks will remain unchanged. The hills are friends tried and trusted and still always there when needed, a symbol of power and strength, strong and solid enough to withstand the ravages of the storms which have disturbed the early part of this year.

We are optimistic that our next visit will see us enjoying what seems like a little bit of Heaven on Earth, amongst the mountains.

" I lift my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help "

(The Logo of Keswick Methodist Church which is surrounded by mountains)

Judith



Mothering Sunday

27th March

On this special day would you like to remember your mother by placing flowers and her photograph on a window sill in the Church?

SPRINGTIME

From the spearhead of the crocus
To the blossom on the bough
There is colour for the Springtime
As the flowers take their bow,
Fine daffodils soon reflecting
Days of sunshine still to come,
The hyacinths choice aroma
Twists the bumble round its thumb.
The blackbirds discard their wellies
Put aside warm scarves and hats,
While their nests are spring—cleaned ready
Practice trilling sharps and flats.
The breezes waft invitations
To migrants on distant shores
Ensuring they pack their cases
And return for Summer's stores,
Mr. Fisher goes a—courting,
With his wet—suit shhning bright,
Quite vociferous in his welcome
Through the reaches of the night,
Readily shedding their pupas
Insects fluff out folded wings,
Airborne gnats madly gyrating
As they bounce on hidden springs,
Honey bees prepare their baskets
To refill with golden dew,
So Nature is hunky dory
When the Springtime comes anew.

Eileen Shenton 2009



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MARCH

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Hilda Morton-Hooper | 1947 |
| Charles Harrall | 1959 |
| Nigel Stuart Pont | 1978 |
| George Francis Fox | 1981 |
| Alice Annie Wilson | 1984 |
| Ada May Rippon | 1984 |
| Arthur Kenneth Mould | 1984 |
| Norman Fedrick | 1985 |
| Cecil Hastings Grimes | 1988 |
| Colin Liddicoat | 1989 |
| Lucy Irene Selvey | 1991 |
| Edith Clarke | 1993 |
| Peter Blades | 1994 |
| Eleanor Lilian Baker | 1994 |
| Marjorie May Gaunt | 1994 |
| Lily Sexton | 1995 |
| William Godfrey Howsam | 2007 |
| Ida Ramsey | 2009 |
| Bryn Williams | 2011 |

APRIL

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Percival Nathanielsz | 1961 |
| Gertrude Agnes Gennard | 1973 |
| Marjorie Jessie Verinder | 1980 |
| William Hutchinson | 1986 |
| James Herbert May | 1986 |
| Laura Ellen Barker | 1988 |
| Sydney Craford Barker | 1988 |

MAY

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| John Stevenson Lawson Oswald | 1981 |
| Dorothea Pearl | 1987 |
| Alfred Sleeman Barnes | 1989 |
| Greville Millward | 1989 |
| Hubert Samuel Clarke | 1993 |
| Kathleen Carter | 1994 |
| Harry Cecil Parker | 1998 |
| Doreen Thompson | 2000 |
| Peter Geoffrey Hopkins | 2007 |
| Ethel Parker | 2009 |

Weekday Activities

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Monday | 2.00pm 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm | Monday Fellowship (except Bank Hols) 3 rd Sidcup Beavers 3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3 rd 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 th Sidcup Rainbows 6 th Sidcup Brownies 4 th Sidcup Guides |



MINISTER

Awaiting new Minister

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