

THE OUTLOOK

MARCH MAY 2025



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Message From the Minister

Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Lent. I thought it would be interesting to reflect for a moment on this traditional time of the Christian year. Today, only very few people have any idea of its meaning. And even if you do, it's a good idea to refresh your memory.

Lent falls between the Epiphany and the Holy Week preceding Easter. Like all the seasons of the Christian year, Lent highlights the importance of an essential Christian practice: doing penance, or a time of critical reflection. A traditional ritual marked this time of reflection and personal deepening of one's faith. This mainly involved fasting and praying regularly during this period. It also involved abstaining from leisure activities and distractions. These things were supposed to be practised throughout society, so even those who had no religious commitment were deprived of leisure and good food. It must have seemed unfair to them. Today, all that has disappeared. But it certainly helps that this season of the Christian year reminds us of the importance of thinking critically about everything we do.

The Gospel story that opens the Lenten season is the temptation of Jesus in the desert. This story echoes the time spent in the desert by the Hebrews, once they had come out of Egypt, freed from slavery. What these two stories have in common is that they take place in the desert, a place of deprivation. The bareness of the desert encourages us to rethink the essential things in life, and in particular our relationship with God. This is particularly relevant in our world today, a world in which we lack nothing. We can get anything we want or need in a matter of hours. We have the answers to any question in a few clicks—a matter of seconds. We are far from being deprived. Our world is marked by abundance and many of our behaviours express our greed. Greed even seems to be the driving force behind our economy, and capitalism in particular.

The apostle Paul has a way of responding to this problem when he says that 'those who deal in material goods' act 'as though they were not fully occupied with them' (1 Corinthians 7:31). So we live in a society in which we lack nothing, in which there are minimum standards that make us consider it normal to own all sorts of things: a car, a smartphone, all sorts of more or less useful and complex objects, made of plastic, filled with electronics, using fossil fuels, not necessary, often wasted and thrown away without being recycled, and to do certain things such as eating poor and sentient animals and animal products that our body doesn't need and that causes lots of suffering, travel by plane to faraway countries, cruise by boat for which we consume tons of oil, take our car for any trip, and even, quite simply, out of boredom. We have all these things, we have them, but the apostle tells us that we can live as if we could do without them completely, and that it would be good in the end to do without them. These are things that belong to the world and are futile. We do not belong to the world and our life is not futile. Our life is in God.

I wish you all a fruitful Lent in your thoughts and in your witness to the Christian faith.

With every blessing,

Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal



Church Family News

We were all saddened to hear the news of Freda's death. Her funeral was a wonderful celebration. Please pray for Sue, Janet and Lois as they come to terms with their loss

Various people struggle with various ailments and medical appointments, we wish them a speedy return to good health. It was good to see Doreen Still with her son at coffee morning recently

Remember Elaine Smith who is in Northbourne Court care home and George who faithfully visits regularly. Olive Lewis was able to attend Freda's service with transport from a kind friend. She was pleased to be there and as cheerful as ever.

It was good to see Rev. Juliet at Freda's service. Although she has retired she is still preaching in Croydon. We pray for her in her continuing ministry, remembering the years she served us at Emmanuel.

Think of those who are unable to worship with us each Sunday, Pat Brace, Colin Seal, Olive Lewis, Doreen Still, Eileen Taylor, Elaine and George Smith.

Judith

Freda Skinner 30 Dec1928 To 21 Jan 2025

This eulogy was read by Sue at the Service of Celebration.

As Jan mentioned in her poem the last three months have been a struggle for Mum, full of pain following her fall, the repair surgery and 6 weeks in hospital and then time at Coloma Court, where she was so well cared for but uncertain of where she was or why she was there. It was here that she passed away peacefully on 21st January. Prior to that she had been at St Margarets, living with dementia through covid. But for all that it was five years out of a long life of 96. So what about the rest? How can I sum up all the things Mum has done in her lifetime in a short eulogy, but I'm going to try to let you know what a wonderful woman our Mum was.

Freda Greenway was born on 30th December 1928, a daughter to Gilbert and Gertrude Greenway and sister to Raymond and Kenneth. She lived in Longlands Park Crescent but moved to 68 Longlands Road as a youngster.

When the war began Mum was at Alma Road school having lessons in air raid shelters, often with gas masks on. Mum was in their Netball team as shooter as she was quite tall. Mum told me that she had to help her Mum look after the Rhode Island Red chickens and had helped the war effort by working on Salvage Saturday collecting tins and saucepans.

Just after the war Mum became a Sunday School teacher and began playing the piano for them. In 1947 she became a teacher at the Mottingham School of Music, the same school she had attended earlier as a pupil, when learning to play both the piano and viola. Mum gained her London Royal Academy in Music qualification in 1947. At the age of 19 she became the church organist, a role she maintained until she was 85 following her hip surgery.

Her first job was as a secretary in London. Both sets of our Grandparents went to Emmanuel church and that's where Mum set her heart on winning Cyril Skinner as her husband. They married on September 12th 1953. I arrived on their second anniversary, Jan was born November 11th 1958 and Lol on 8th May 1964.

Mum and Dad ran a vibrant youth club at Emmanuel, offering a space to hang out and chat, badminton and YMCA weekends. Their youth choir sang at the Royal Albert hall where Mum played the organ. In later years there were several reunion meetings for this group.

As a brownie and girl guide herself Mum started writing pen pal letters to Barbara in Canada whom she visited on several occasions. She later became the 6th Sidcup guide leader while Jan and I were still young. She ran the unit alone for 10 years due to lack of any other support. Mum ran yearly guide camps, bundling tents, kit bags and guides into the back of an open lorry, with us all singing campfire songs while travelling to the camp site. Mum took Lois as a small baby of three months on one such camp just so the guides weren't

disappointed that year. When the first-class badge was due to be discontinued, Mum got several of her guides, including me as the youngest one, through the course, achieving the award. She also pushed me to achieve my Queen's guide badge. Mum later became the Ranger guide leader getting us through both bronze and silver DofE awards. Mum was selected to represent the district at Westminster for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. She also played for rehearsals and at the Scout Gang shows for over 25 years, often with Lol as her page turner.

From our childhoods Jan remembers playing duets with Mum, her on the clarinet and Mum on the piano and both on the piano with chopsticks as their party piece. Having also played the cello, Jan could read the base clef and sometimes used to join mum at the organ after a church service to play a duet, Mum on the keyboard and Jan on the foot pedals. Some years later, on arriving home from university one December, Jan found Mum at church at the organ fundraising by playing people's requests for favourite carols, so she climbed up beside her to work the pedals but this made the music rather slow. One of Mum's friends came up to Jan afterwards and asking if Mum was ok as Mum always made congregations sing at a rapid pace.

Lois' memories are of bonfire nights, having made and lit the guy, we always had to write our name with the sparklers. We trooped in afterwards and had tomato soup, sausages and jacket potatoes. At our birthday parties we always finished with the wool game. While eating our party food or playing outside Mum and Dad would create a spiders web of coloured wool, one coloured ball for every child and the aim was to roll up your wool without breaking it until you reached the prize, usually a bar of chocolate located in a plastic bag.

Lol remembers Mum just before her wedding to Andy sitting in the evenings and sewing her wedding dress, that of her three bridesmaids and the page-boys ties. In later years, after Jan and I had left home, Lol enjoyed holidays with Mum and Dad on her own. She also remembers sitting doing jigsaws with Mum, who with the onset of dementia couldn't always work out where the pieces went and placed them in anywhere which made completing the puzzle very difficult. As children Mum used to do wonderful Christmas stockings for us (sorry to be a spoiler but Santa isn't real!) but recently she enjoyed getting her presents out and feeling for what she thought they might be when we did a stocking for her. Bledi recalls that whenever you asked Mum if she was all right her reply would be 'No, I'm half left.'

Mum's main achievements were linked to this church where she became a church steward and an elder once the Methodists joined with the URC. She was very hands on taking on roles with Dad to clean the church, organise the flower rota as well as a flower festival. She also cooked meals once a month for Wednesday Lunch club, running this event for just under 30 years, finishing in 2014.

Mum ran Women's Hour for many years, often collecting members as a taxi service before the meeting and returning them home afterwards. She took on

this role from our Great grandmother on the Hubbard side of the family who started the group in 1921. Mum organised seaside trips, garden parties, cream teas as well as the annual Christmas Bazaar and the Easter Eggstravaganza. Lol remembers having to come up to the hall and stick egg stickers all-round the hall prior to the event.

Mum worked as a reception teacher at Wybourne Infant School for 11 years. When she retired her diary centred around church. Monday was Women's Hour, Tuesday was craft club, a group that met to sew the millennium pew runners that you are sitting on. Nikki remembers her Grandma taking her to this church group with the ladies as they sewed the runners. They would drink tea and she would have a squash. It was here that she was taught how to cross stitch. Her first sampler, which she still has, was a cross and some random lines on a piece of aida. Mum designed almost all the patterns for the runners ordering materials and wool from her own account. On Thursdays Mum ran the 'hand bell ringers' group and in the evenings it was choir practise. On Friday's Mum organised coffee mornings, with Sunday set aside for playing the organ. John remembers that when he stayed with Grandma she would always put the roast dinner and rice pudding in the oven before leaving for church. She would make puffballs with the beef lard that were always deep enough to put lots of gravy in but the rice pudding was often quite thick and needed a dollop of jam stirred in. Mum was the Network representative often travelling to conferences in Harrogate

Mum and Dad organised the yearly harvest Barn Dance as 'callers'. It was always a fun evening. It was Mums job to decorate the front porch in the church for harvest with wonderful autumn flowers and a huge bread sheaf that she had made with bread mice on it.

Mum wrote and printed the weekly notice sheet that was often our job to place in hymn books as people came in for the service. She was on the Holiday Club committee organising creative activities for those that attended, including my children.

In her lifetime Mum was able to celebrate many special family occasions. She was the mother of the bride, on several occasions, she had five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Several families were able to celebrate four generations, with John pictured as an infant with his Great Grandma and have a photo with his girls and their Great Grandma. Mum and Dad celebrated both their silver and ruby wedding anniversaries with a party at the church and their 50th wedding anniversary by having a garden party. .

Dad was invited to Buckingham palace on two occasions with Mum and me, then Jan. Mum was presented with a 'Lifetime Service Recognition Award to the Community' by the Sidcup Rotary group. She also volunteered as a minibus driver collecting stroke patients for physio and meetings at Queen Mary's where she painted the hospital walls with Disney characters to make it a more child friendly place to be.

In retirement Mum took on more of a Grandparent role, collecting Sarah and Nikki from school once a week. She had John, Mark and Kathy stay for a week each year in May when Rob and I took a child free holiday in the Lake District. Memories of the Grandkids are of baking with Mum, outings, pantomimes, farm visits, and an attempt to teach them knitting but mostly they enjoyed their one to one time with her.

Gareth's favourite memory of Mum is on the night before he married Sarah she told him to do a runner! Sarah remembers playing with the farm and the zoo after school and going with her Grandma to the glade to feed the ducks. She also recalls that later in life when she spoke with Grandma about her hockey the reply was, 'I used to play on the wing'. Kath remembers how her Grandma always put the fire on and after a bath and she would sit her by the fire and brush her hair until it was dry. She loved Mum's hairbrush so much as it was a soft, blue handled one which she still has.

Mark recalls Mum's love of games. Even visitors to her care home, unless they took a dog, couldn't go home without a game of dominoes or drop the box but the family favourites remain fly ace, tip it, bickering and trying to eat mars bars with hats scarves and gloves on.

Mum had many creative skills. She painted in oils, attended pottery classes making several large vases, she learnt how to do wood turning and had a lathe in a shed in the garden. Mum kept so much 'stuff' as being a war baby she learnt to be frugal and that it might always be useful. She enjoyed long and short embroidery, usually of birds, but she did sew each grandchild a Beatrix Potter character. Mum's knitting was prolific: there were chickens, hats for Innocent drinks bottles, sold in aid of help the aged, prem baby hats for Kings College hospital as well as squares made into blanket and later strips made into THESE! [see photo Ed]. She was a green-fingered gardener and avid bird watcher.

Mum and Dad travelled a lot and as a family we enjoyed holidays in both the UK, more often than not beach holidays, and in Europe. One of their early holidays together was in 1960 was to Italy when Jan and I were left with Grandma Greenway. Dad had been billeted in Italy during the war and they went to see Lorenzo and Asunta. In 1963, with our Grandma Greenway we set off on an epic road trip around Europe travelling through France, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Belgium and Holland. We even had to drive to the top of Grandma's road so that we clocked up 2000miles. We travelled with two walking, talking dolls purchased along the way. They had legs that wouldn't bend so the back seat was rather crowded.

Mum decided to retire early, at the same time as Dad. Dad however soon found a volunteer job travelling to London to set up the Wesley Museum in City Road. Mum sometimes went up to help him and presented some of his Wesley book collection to their library. While Dad continued this work Mum decided to take herself off round the world. Jan and Mike were living in Cape Town. Mum's first trip to South Africa was to be there to care for Jan when she came

out of hospital having delivered Sarah. She later went back again with Dad and Aunty Ida.

She came with my family to St Lucia where we all remember her insisting she take a jet ski out for a ride, with me on the back: but I drew the line at letting her ride the banana boat. While out there, one day Mum went missing. Later that evening, at dinner we found she had taken herself off on an island tour!

After Dad died, Lois took on a more caring role for Mum and they holidayed together in Devon, but so as to give Lol a break it fell to Jan and me to take Mum away. Jan went with her on a Hurtigruten cruise along the Norway coastline as far north as North Cap in a blizzard and then onto Kirknese as she insisted on having a husky dog sled ride over the frozen lake near the Russian border.

Phil and I spent several years fulfilling Mum's bucket list of places to see. We went to Australia and New Zealand to meet up with her sister in law and our cousins in Brisbane as well as her bridesmaid Margaret with whom she stayed for a week. Our next trip was on the Bernina express as she wanted to see the Jung Frau, a place where her brother Ray had been.

We took her on a mediterranean cruise along with Lol. With a trip to Santorini necessitating a tender boat ride into port we decided to leave Mum on board for the day while we went on a wine tasting trip and a wander round the town, only to find Mum sitting having coffee in a small taverna. We did wonder if, with her developing dementia, she would have remembered what time to board the ship had we not discovered her!

We also went to Malta as Dad had written a diary about being billeted there before heading up through Italy with the RAF. Mum wanted to see the same sights he had written about BUT she forgot to take the diary with her so we ended up as general tourists and Mum enjoyed a dip in the Mediterranean.

Phil and I took her down to our caravan in Weymouth each year where she enjoyed playing the 2p machines as well as paddling.

Mum had quite a wonderful sense of humour and loved a good laugh. We always had a good laugh while away on holiday too. A memory we all recall is during COVID when Mum had to celebrate her birthday behind a screen. We had dropped off a cake and candles. We watched Mum open her cards and then the staff gave her the cake with the candles, a 9 and a 3. Mum took them from them and giggling, switched them round and so that they read 39!

Mum introduced Emmanuel church to the Nasio Trust. She travelled with me to Kenya on four volunteer trips where we provided medical day camps for those who were sick as well as home visits to take food parcels and working in the ECD classrooms preparing report cards for sponsors and telling stories. We usually walked up to the church on a Sunday with the children but Mum was allowed to go in the car, accompanied by as many children who could cram in with her. She also took a turn playing the church keyboard and was impressed that their pianist was self-taught.

Mum adored dogs. She could name them all from Nobby and Punch, her childhood family dogs, to Bryn that we acquired from a farm in Wales while on holiday and Mum just couldn't resist bringing home as a family pet. She looked after Ricca for me along with Benji, Lol's black lab cross. She then had Sandy, a fluffy Alsatian, live with them and finally Gem, their collie. Her hand used to sneak out of the covers at Coloma if Nyima or Chester got on her bed, She even accepted kisses from Chessie.

Mum made a difference in this world. She lived her Christian faith throughout her whole life, a life filled with service to others. She was very generous with her time and her money. She was our role model and showed us how we should live our lives too. She is much missed but always in our hearts.

Mum, you are no longer where you were, but you are everywhere where we are. We love you.

Sue forgot to mention that Freda and Cyril also used to publish this magazine, once a month in those days.

Ed





Displays of some of Freda's handiwork, and family photos were at the back of the church.

World Day of Prayer
March 7th 10.30am
St Marys Church Crown Lane, Chislehurst
Theme - I made you wonderful

Christmas Get-Together

On the 7th December an afternoon Christmas get-together was held in the Church hall.

There were tables of gifts to buy and a popular Christmas raffle which as usual was well supported and a lot of fun. Mince pies and homemade cakes were on sale and enjoyed with a cup of tea or coffee. The money raised was shared between the charity Nassio Trust in Kenya which Emmanuel supports, and our Christmas charity Crisis. A total of £233 was raised, half of which was sent to Crisis, the other half will be used to support the sponsored children in Kenya.

OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITY

One again our Christmas Charity was Crisis.

All the Friday and Sunday coffee money during December, the money collected from the Christmas Card tree and half the money from the Christmas Get-Together amounted to £236. We rounded it up to £250 which was sent to Crisis.

Hilda Upson

Hilda Upson has moved to Horsham to live near her daughter. She will be sadly missed as our oldest and longest serving member. We are grateful to her for all she has done for Emmanuel over many years.

After the service on February 16th she was presented with a picture of the church, and everybody enjoyed chocolate cake with their tea and coffee.

We wish Hilda much happiness in her new home.



New Minister

Dear friends

We are delighted to report that Eric Bediako has been stationed to our Circuit from September 2025. He hails from the Southwark and Deptford Circuit. He will have completed his training by September, and he will have pastoral charge of Orpington and Petts Wood Methodist Churches. He and his family will live in the Orpington manse.

Yours,

Duncan, on behalf of the Widmore CLT

Sidcup Banking Hub, Warm spaces and Local investment

There's good news locally, from new investment in Danson Park to progress on the Sidcup Banking Hub. But there's also worrying news, from a new toll at Blackwall Tunnel to inappropriate plans on the green belt locally.

More investment in our community

Let's start with the good news. Firstly, the Sidcup Banking Hub is progressing well. Once delivered, it will provide face-to-face banking in the town centre, allowing residents and businesses to make deposits and withdrawals and talk to a community banker.

A temporary location for the banking hub will soon be announced, with efforts to find a permanent home fast underway. I'm working closely with Cash Access UK to ensure it opens as soon as possible.

There's an information drop-in event on Wednesday 19th March for local businesses and residents who want to know more about the initiative. So, if you'd like to learn more come along between 10 am and 1 pm at St John's Church in Sidcup.

Secondly, Bexley Council is investing more than £240,000 to refurbish the splash park and toilets opposite the car park in Danson Park. The work is due to be completed by Spring.

Finally, while tens of thousands of pensioners locally, struggled without winter fuel payments over Christmas thanks to Labour's welfare cut, we've supported warm spaces for vulnerable people locally.

Bexley Council granted Age UK £25,000 to help pensioners access support and £200,000 more for local community and voluntary groups to provide warm spaces throughout the freezing winter months.

One of the initiatives I've closely supported is the Elderberries Vintage Tearooms, which received £10,000 to bring elderly residents together with hot food and a warm drink this winter. I was pleased to visit the tearoom at Baldwyns Park Baptist Church last week to thank the local charity for their work.

Louie French MP



Services for March

2	10.30am	Mr Tony Ball	
5	8.00pm	Rev Duncan MacBean	Ash Wednesday, Communion Bromley Common
9	10.30am	Mr Paul Aycliffe	
16	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Communion
23	10.30am	Rev Duncan MacBean	
30	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	Mothering Sunday. St. George's Day Parade

Services for April

6	10.30am	Mr Mike Tinson	
13	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Palm Sunday
17	7.30pm	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Maundy Thursday, Bexley URC
18	10.00am	Walk of Witness	CTIS
18	3.00pm	Revd Hannah Faal-Heim	Good Friday , Chislehurst, Bring and Share Tea
20	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Easter Sunday, Communion
27	10.30am	Mr Tony Ball	

Services for May

4	10.30am	Mr Ralph Brandhorst	
11	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Communion
18	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
25	10.30am	Revd Hannah Faal-Heim	

Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.00am to Noon.

Come for a coffee or tea and biscuits and have a chat with friends.

All donations for church funds.



Sunday Coffee Rota



Mar	2	Judith & Maddie	Apr	20	Roger & Christine
	9	Roger & Christine		27	Pat & Marion
	16	Pat & Marion	May	4	Pam & Jennifer
	23	Pam & Jennifer		11	Ann and Maryia
	30	Ann and Maryia		18	Ethel and Maureen
Apr	6	Ethel and Maureen		25	Judith & Maddie
	13	Judith & Maddie			

Pastorate Update

At the Pastorate meeting on February 10th the following dates were planned:

Maundy Thursday Service at Bexley URC at 7 30 pm, Rodolphe preaching

Easter Breakfast at Bexley URC at 8.30 on Easter Sunday.

Lent Course Geddes Place Mondays 12.30pm (in the café starting with soup)

Starts 10th Mar for 5 weeks.

Lent Course Bexley URC Tuesdays 10 30am Starts 11th Mar for 5 weeks.

Away day Saturday 10th May.

Christian Aid sponsored walk 17th May.

Midsummer Picnic at Hall Place from 12.00 noon Sat 12th July.

As usual news from each Church was shared and Rodolphe gave his report.

Judith

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Liturgical Date	First Reading	Psalm
Mar 2	Transfiguration Sun	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17
Mar 9	1st Sun in Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Mar 16	2nd Sun in Lent	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27
Mar 23	3rd Sun in Lent	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8
Mar 30	4th Sun in Lent	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32
Apr 6	5th Sun in Lent	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126
Apr 13	Liturgy of the Palms		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Apr 13	Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
Apr 17	Maundy Thurs	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Apr 18	Good Fri	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22
Apr 20	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Apr 27	2nd Sun of Easter	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or
May 4	3rd Sun of Easter	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30
May 11	4th Sun of Easter	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23
May 18	5th Sun of Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148
May 25	6th Sun of Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67
May 28	Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or 93

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

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

3rd Sidcup Scouts

National Pedal Car Olympics January 2025

After a stressful afternoon when the hired mini bus failed to start, after a few phone calls enough cars and additional adults had been found to transport the 8 Scouts and Leaders over to Thriftwood camp site near Brentwood in Essex.

We are lucky to have indoor accommodation shared with 2 other troops who we have been sharing with for a number of years, we are also lucky to have help with catering from 2 scouters from Essex looking after around 40 scouts and leaders. The majority of participants are outdoors camping and have to keep fires going for warmth.

With temperatures below freezing all weekend we did not have the normal problem of mud.

The event is based around pedal cars and with nearly 500 competitors events are spread all over the site generally using the woodland tracks and car parks.

There are 8 pedal car races ranging from a straightforward 100metre sprint to a Triathlon which incorporates pedal car then a run and then archery and return to the start. The team relay uses a 4 seater pedal car that has to be driven around an obstacle course first 1 competitor does a lap then stops and picks up another passenger and they change driver then doing 2 laps they then stop for another passenger and driver swap this continues till all 4 of the team are on board and complete 4 laps. The tractor pull involves pulling as far as you can car tyres chained together, the further you go more tyres are dragged along.

The racing takes part all day Saturday and Sunday morning, between the racing there are other activities that scouts can drop in and out of like Climbing, Axe throwing, Archery and one of the favourites the Cresta run which is a wooden downhill course where you sit in a toboggan and hang on tight.

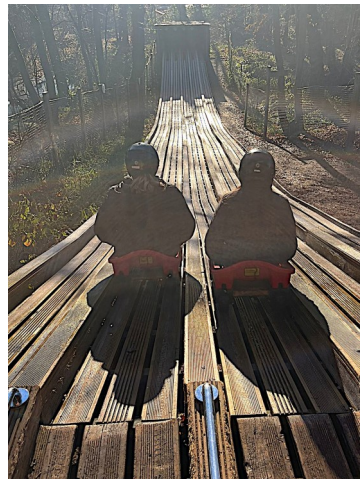
On Saturday evening the site has a Silent Disco, Giant Inflatable slides and climbing walls. The Giro scope is always popular where the Scouts are strapped in and spun around going upside down.

In our accommodation we also are able to put on a film for those who don't want to go out in the cold or haven't got the energy after a very busy day.

After more phone calls transport was arranged with parents to get the Scouts home on Sunday afternoon.

We are already booked for next year as the event is so popular and we cannot let our indoor accommodation go.

Laurence 3rd Sidcup Scouts



TREFOIL TOPAZ 2024 THAILAND 12-26 NOVEMBER



I was selected to go on an International trip to Thailand to help Girl Guiding Thailand (GGAT) set up the Trefoil (adult guiding). Guiders in Thailand are teachers, and guiding is a curricular classroom subject (other options are Scouts or Red Cross). Guide uniform is worn by teachers / guides on the day their subject is taught. The aim was to try to find a way to introduce membership outside the school environment.



The 5 of us were welcomed royally by GGAT with a dance performance from a local school, dinner and welcome ceremony and we introduced ourselves in person. We were accompanied throughout the two weeks by members of GGAT including the Chief Commissioner of Guiding who were exhausted at the end by continually speaking English as our Thai is virtually nonexistent!!

The first 2 days were spent sightseeing in Bangkok (Grand Palace with jade Buddha the Reclining Buddha -60 foot long & a magnificent Hindu



temple; Ayuthaya - UNESCO Heritage sights including the severed head of Budha – now placed in tree roots (you need to sit down in front of it when taking photos -you cannot be above a Budha & soles of feet must not be pointing at him).



We made Krathongs (flower arrangements with a candle in banana leaf baskets) with local school children and university students; attended Loy Krathong Festival at Wat Chaiwathanaram dressed in Thai costumes to release our Krathongs into the river.

On the way to Surin in N East Thailand for the rest of our stay a visit to a petrified forest / dinosaur & fossil museum. Then to a village with dancing, a chance to weave baskets, make fish from banana leaves, foods to cook and sample with the community and Guides from local schools

At the campsite – indoor accommodation – all our food cooked for us. We attended the Sinarong Stadium for a largely ethical Elephant festival– parade – exhibitions and performances.

Back to Surin for a Regional welcome ceremony / presentation introducing ourselves. The local community / dignitaries also joined us. We sang UK guide songs with them. As it was the



Festival of Light we were taken to Light and Sound show at Pasat Sikhorphon Castle. – dancing / story telling.

After a visit to Phanom Rung Historical Park – Hindu -built on top of spent volcano by Khmer (Cambodia ruled Thailand at one point) visits to Tame Withaya School and Prasat Withayakharn School - 3000 pupils a veritable village.

We danced with the girls, admired the amazing Thai crafts e.g. wooden teacups, t shirts, bags, flowers, foods. Luckily, we had chosen (because of potential language difficulties) to do action activities/games with the Guides e.g. ropes and knots -games / action songs – e.g. a penguin comes to tea & Eideweiss. A lot of hilarity during the activities.



Planning for Surin camp activities followed an exploration of the camp site. The land was donated by the Thai government to GGAT & included 3 rice fields and woods. The site provides employment for the local community.

One of our tasks was building a slider base – permanent steel structure replacing wooden / bamboo ones which due to monsoons rotted most years and needed replacing. Monies we raised paid for building a permanent steel structure with rope slide. This was erected prior to our visit. We put up a sign and fixed the tarpaulin (slide over the ropes). We had also at GGAT's request designed 17 moveable exhibition boards & using our funding GGAT had these made. We brought accompanying activities relating to these for the Guides to participate in.



The Thai's are very proud of their heritage and wanted us to see as much of their country as possible. So off to silver handicraft village –we were able to try some of the stages e.g. fashioning the rings ourselves.

Then a visit to the silk weaving / tie dying village. Tour of factory.

Handmade sarongs – 3 weavers do 4 cm a day.

PITCHING and EXPLORING FOR TOMORROW CAMP

Welcome ceremony including the Bai Sri Kwan ritual (wrist binding – Brahma led service bringing health wellbeing and luck to the camp). Ice breaking games led by Thais, a wide game from the UK. Action songs.

Girls plan menu and then with paper money buy their ingredients before cooking their dinner – tripods / bar to hold the billies on by the handle / fires on the grass – no water buckets / no potholders. Food cut with large sharp knives on boards on the floor. Wash up – cold water. No health and safety, no accidents! Guides pitched tents with supervision – lightweight ridge tents – in less than 15 minutes. We introduced them to the cooking and eating of camp doughnuts / scones whilst we were shown Thai dishes/activities. Also raft racing / rope bridge walking / travelling on tarpaulin / the slide / bomb disposal and other fun activities. We were also requested to teach CPR with inadequate dummies. Not sure how much the Guides learnt but in true girl guide fashion I did my best,



The entertainment from the guides was singing, dancing, fashion parade. UK did the pat a cake polka (13 times – exhausting) in improvised national costume – red, white and blue combinations. Participation of all in GGAT leader led activities / dances. Great fun.

We harvested rice, supervised by the community, with mini scythes and between us planted 100 friendship trees / bushes in woods.

The closing ceremony included a video of our two weeks with the Thais.

Then we left for Si Ket Province and visited 2 more schools where besides dancing (where we were dressed in their national costumes) & our activities (as above) we were able to try out Thai traditional instruments with the band.

We paid our respects at the City Pillar Shrine and visited WAT Mahaphutharam – the main temple of Si Sa Ket before taking the 7.56pm overnight sleeper train to Bangkok.

This whole experience was fabulous. It was a lot of hard work before and during the two weeks but so enjoyable. The Thais are such happy polite people. I have made many friends. The Thais are so proud of their country, and I am profoundly grateful I was able to experience it.

Food Bank Report 11th Feb 2025

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Avery Hill Christian Fellowship Food Bank. It is very much appreciated by the Food Bank and the people who find themselves in a very difficult situation.

Their Current Needs Are:

Cleaning Products including washing up liquid. *	Noodles
Small packets of washing Powder. *	Razors Men *
Deodorants Men * & Women *	Coffee Tea *
Shampoo* Conditioner*	Biscuits
Shaving foam **	Jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter **
Bars of soap	Potatoes in tins or mash
Porridge **	Female Hygiene products Tampons **
Meat in tins **	Tinned Spaghetti
Tins of Fish **	Squash to dilute *
Long life milk *	Toothpaste **
Fruit in tins**	Tinns of Soup *
Vegetables in tins & Tomatoes **	
Ready to eat Custard & Rice Puddings *	
Fruit Juice in Cartons (Long Life) *	
Toilet Rolls * Kitchen Rolls	
Small packets of sugar *	

* means they have low stocks

** out of stock

They currently have plenty of:
beans, pasta and cereals .

Please Note

The closing date for copy for the
June / July / August Outlook will be

Thursday 22nd 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.

If you can write anything that might interest others,
please do so and send it to me for publication.

There is no charge for the magazine, but donations are welcome to help with the cost of paper and ink and postal charges.

Tony Howard Ed

Emmanuel.church.outlook2@gmail.com

Pastorate Lunch

The Pastorate lunch at Sophie's Choice on January 21st was very enjoyable. It was good to see people from all three churches meeting together, getting to know each other and sharing an excellent meal. We look forward to repeating the event again next year. Thank you Paul for organising this once more.

A midsummer picnic for the Pastorate is being organised in July. It will be good to share an afternoon socially at Hall Place, hopefully in the sunshine.

Further details will be circulated nearer the time.



SENsational Church

A new community
Fun Fellowship Crafts Music
Refreshments Dance Play
Sensory Room Prayer Tent
Chat & Chill
Singing & Signing
Creative Worship

Venue: **Bromley Methodist Church, BR1 1SB (North St.)**
Time: **2-4pm**
Sundays: **14 March**
22 June 14 November

for all ages and abilities

To register, please email: SENsationalchurch@proton.me
or leave a message via: **020 8313 1029**





A new **dementia-friendly, café-style church service**

TASTER SESSIONS: **Soul Space**

Includes:

Worship & Refreshments
Fellowship & Support

To find out more or to RSVP:

Email:

widmorecircuit@gmail.com

Call: 07835809967

Tuesday 4 March 2025: 10am-12pm

**Orpington Methodist Church,
Sevenoaks Road, BR6 9JH**

On-site and roadside parking (some restrictions)

Thursday 20 March 2025:

10:30am-12:30pm

**Bromley Methodist Church, College
Road, BR1 1SB**

Free parking on-site by registration



Christian Aid Week 2025

Christian Aid Week is an annual event across the United Kingdom, a door-to-door fundraising drive takes place by the Christian Aid charity. In 2025, Christian Aid Week will take place from **11th to 17th May**.

Christian Aid is a charity who work with 700 local organisations in around 50 countries in the world. They work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

They aim to end poverty and injustice worldwide. This involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector. Their work includes helping people to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

Emmanuel does not have the resources to participate in the door to door collection as we used to. There will be a sponsored walk in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 17th May. Forms will be available at the back of the church later if you wish to sponsor the walkers.

If you wish to make a separate donation please use the internet and go to:-

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-009429>

or by phoning **020 7523 2046**

Envelopes should also be available at the back of the church.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Subject to police permission, the Good Friday Walk of Witness will take place in Sidcup on March 18th.

It will start from St Johns at 9.30am with several stops along the High Street and finish on the green opposite Christchurch. St. Lawrence's will provide refreshments.

Carol Singing

On Friday 20th December a group of about 10 people sang carols in the neighbourhood of the Church to raise money for Action for Children. Maddie and Peter kindly invited everyone back to their home for coffee, mince pies etc. afterwards . A total of £200 was sent to support Action for Children.

Judith



Mothering Sunday

30th March

Remember your mother by displaying her photograph and some flowers on a window sill.



LENT LUNCHES

at Christchurch, Main Road, Sidcup.

Every Wednesday 12th March - 9th April 12-1.30

All are welcome.

No payment, but donations for Christian Aid.

Emmanuel Church are providing / serving lunches on 19th March so we would be grateful for offers to make and serve soup etc.

Please contact the Elders if you can help.

Water Aid Lent Appeal 2025

Across the world, our climate is changing at an alarming rate, and it's making it even harder for people to get clean water. Drought, floods and extreme weather damage water supplies and spread disease. Every day, fragile water supplies are at greater risk of disappearing completely.

Here are just some of the solutions your congregation can make possible:

Elevated water points

In flood-prone areas, we help communities build hand pumps on elevated platforms. These tap into uncontaminated groundwater deep in the ground.

Local water experts

In places where drought is a real threat, we help communities monitor water levels and put early warning systems in place so they can prepare for shortages.

Elevated toilets

We help families build toilets on elevated plinths. Waste goes into sealed chambers that can be emptied, or into septic tanks buried beneath the ground.

Rainwater harvesting

We help people collect and store rainwater to use in times of scarcity. Families can use guttering and pipes to channel rainwater from flat, clean surfaces into a storage tank

If you want to make a donation to Water Aid Pat George will be happy to pass yours on with her donation.

Alternatively you can donate directly at

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/donate>



BIBLE MONTH COURSE

April/May 2025

EXPLORING JOHN'S GOSPEL



The Gospel of John invites us to journey through the superabundant life Jesus offers. John's Gospel opens by presenting Jesus as the Word of God – the source of life and light for all people (John 1:1-18). In Jesus, we encounter God's boundless, gracious love, which brings us into a relationship with him as his children. Through Jesus, the fullness of grace and truth is offered to everyone willing to receive it.

You are invited to join us as we explore John's Gospel together.

Bible Group Sessions

All sessions will be held at Bromley Methodist Church, Corner of North St and College Rd, BR1 1SB.

Free parking available in the church car park – please register your car on arrival, all buses to Bromley Town Centre/Market Square stop near the church.

Wednesdays in April/May 11am-12.30pm

30th April Embracing God and all reality

7th May Signs, Conversations and controversy

14th May Jesus' discipleship course

21st May 'The hour' and the resurrection and our drama

If you cannot attend the group sessions but would like to use the 30 Days with John booklet in your own personal reflections please let us know and we can give you a free copy to use at home.

To register for the group sessions or request a booklet please email office@bromeymethodist.org or phone 020 8313 1029.



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
Robert Brynle Williams	2011
(Hilda) Winifred Pater	2019

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
Dorothey 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

FERRIER OPERATIC SOCIETY

W.S. GILBERT & A. SULLIVAN'S

YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

**DIRECTOR LEON BERGER
MUSICAL DIRECTOR DAVID STEPHENS**



22ND-24TH MAY 2025

EVENINGS 7:30PM | SATURDAY MATINEE 2:30PM

How to book tickets:

- Ticket Prices:** All tickets £18
*Early Bird discount to £16 on Thursday 22nd only
for bookings before 15th April*
- By Telephone:** 020 8850 3702
Tuesday – Saturday, 10-1pm
- Online:** www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk
(there is a small charge for online bookings)
- In person:** Bob Hope Theatre, Wythfield Road
Eltham SE9 5TG
(Tue-Sat, 10-1pm)

Weekday Activities

Monday	9.30 - 11.00am 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Toddler's Play Group 3 rd Sidcup Beavers 3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3 rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10.00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10.00am—noon 4.45pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning 6 th Sidcup Rainbows 6 th Sidcup Brownies 4 th Sidcup Guides



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