

Prayer Diary

November 2020

‘See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.’

Malachi 4:5-6



Vicar: Martin Lane

Churchwardens: Geoff Martin, Tony Simons

Assistants to the Churchwardens: Greig Burgoyne, Mick Farrier

Deanery Synod Representatives: Michael Davis, Hilary Drury,

PCC: Lisa Bonham (Secretary), Jamie Coussens, Michael Davis, Hilary Drury, Carol Eldridge, Caleb Kilby, Geoff Martin, Martin Lane, Cynthia Lovett, Rowena Pelling, Tony Simons

Treasurer: Carol Eldridge

Safeguarding Officer: Rowena Pelling

Administrator: Lisa Bonham

Digital Media and Publicity Officer: Naomi Wade

Finance Committee: Carol Eldridge, Martin Lane

Buildings Committee: Mick Farrier, Martin Lane

Staff Team: Lisa Bonham, Hilary Drury, Martin Lane

Preaching Team: Jamie Coussens, Michael Davis, Nigel Harvey, Glen Kilby, Martin Lane

Families Worker: Hilary Drury

Sunday Club Supervisor: Lisa Bonham

Sunday Club Leaders: Lisa Bonham, Hilary Drury, Tony Simons

Sunday Club Helpers: Jamie Coussens, Michael Davis, Jen Farrier, Nicky Goddin, Carol Eldridge, Cynthia Lovett, Wanda Owen, Annette Wells

Crèche Team: Beckie Akroyd, Thelma Frogley, Mena Martin, Chloe Newman, Jen & Bruce Steadman

Our Mission

Our mission is to help people of our town and local community become fully-committed followers of Jesus.

Our Vision

Imagine a church that's flooding its local community with the light of the gospel and making a visible difference to the lives of all kinds of people: that's what we long to see at Emmanuel Church, on the West Hill of Hastings, to the glory of God.

As we look to the future we envision a growing and dynamic, **gospel-hearted** church, full of men, women, and children who find their identity in Christ and rejoice in living for him. It's a church with multiple, vibrant gospel ministries for all ages with trained and trustworthy leaders; where faithful bible teaching is valued and expected; where the gospel is proclaimed with urgency and purpose. It's a church of disciple-making disciples; where members are experiencing the life-changing power of the gospel and helping others to experience it too.

It's an **others-focused** church where we cherish one another in Christ; a family of believers who think of one another before themselves and gladly accept sacrifice for each other's sake; where we love one another in practical ways and everyone gives and receives. It's a church in which relationships are loyal, supportive and accountable; where names are remembered and absence is noticed; where we join together to laugh and cry, challenge and encourage, pray and praise.

It's an **outward-looking** church that works for the good of our local community and seeks the lost with the gospel of grace in creative and relevant ways; a place where the needy find help, the broken find healing, the lonely find friendship, and all hear the offer of new life in Christ. It's a church that's committed to supporting other gospel ministries, in the UK and overseas, by giving its money and sending its people to serve in various ways.

This is our dream. We believe, under God, it will soon be reality, and we invite you to be part of it.

Dear Friends

At the end of this month, on Sunday 29th November, we will enter the season of Advent. Children (and perhaps some adults, too) will start the daily ritual of opening the doors of their Advent Calendars to see what's inside, and the countdown to Christmas will have begun!

Advent, however, is much more than the countdown to Christmas. The word 'advent' itself comes from the Latin word 'adventus', meaning 'coming'. As we celebrate Advent, we are reminded that the Christian life is lived in year-round anticipation of the final coming of Christ's kingdom, when he returns in glory and judgement. Jesus spoke of his return on numerous occasions. It will come suddenly and unexpectedly (Mat 24:36-25:13); a day when people are separated one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats (Mat 25:31-46), or as a fisherman divides his catch (Mat 13:47-50). It will be a day when the elect are gathered in from all four points of the compass (Mat 24:30-31). On that day, Jesus will take his people to be with him forever (John 14:3), and he compares it to a wedding feast (Mat 8:10-12; 22:1-14; Rev 19:7-9).

But we don't only look forward to the final establishment of Christ's kingdom; we also look back. The kingdom is coming, but it has already come, and we can enter it today. So, at Advent, we also look back in celebration to Christ's first coming at Christmas and the inauguration of his kingdom. When they sought Jesus as a child, the Magi were guided by an old prophecy of scripture that spoke of the coming king: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' (Matthew 2:6, quoting Micah 5:2, 4). As a man, Jesus declared: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' (Matthew 3:2).

Advent reminds us that we live in the 'last days' between Christ's first coming and his return. And it reminds us to be ready for his return by coming to him today in repentance and faith.

With love,
Martin

Each day of the week has:

- some Emmanuel people and ministries (see inside cover)
- some streets in our parish to pray for our community
- an external ministry or organisation we support (see back cover) and/or some countries where Christians are facing persecution
- something to pray for specifically related to the Coronavirus
- a Bible verse to pray for our church family

You could choose to pray through each section every day, or spread them out across the month. We hope this will continue to be a useful aid to prayer.

Sundays (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- Vicar, Martin Lane, as he leads Emmanuel
- Churchwardens and Assistants
- The Preaching Team
- The Sound Desk

Our Community

Homes and businesses on Halton Crescent, Halton Place, Hardwicke Road, Harold Place, Manor Road, Milward Crescent and Milward Road.

The World

- Jude Harrison and Family Support Work
- Christians facing persecution in Iran and India

COVID-19

- Churches and ministry leaders; that they would both be a light for Christ and provide practical support for their communities.

Bible Focus - Psalm 51:10-12

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

- For Emmanuel to be full of repentant people who trust in God’s forgiveness and restoration

Mondays (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- Digital Media and Publicity Officer, Naomi Wade
- The Staff Team to be united and gospel focused
- Bookstall ministry, Beckie Akroyd
- The TOAST Team and those who come along

Our Community

Homes and businesses on Mount Pleasant Road, Nelson Road, North Terrace, Old London Road, Pelham Street, Plynlimmon Road, Portland Place and Portland Terrace.

The World

- John and Sarah Percival (Cambridge): give thanks for John getting off to a good start in Oak Hill and St Matthew’s roles; pray for him to be faithful and prayerful in preparation, to work efficiently and trust God when life feels very full.

- Churches and leadership in the Diocese of Chichester

COVID-19

- Those who are sick, and their families; for healing and comfort from the Lord through the care of doctors and nurses.

Bible Focus - Acts 4:29

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

- For Emmanuel to boldly proclaim that salvation is found in Christ alone

Tuesdays (3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- The Finance Committee to make wise decisions
- Families Worker, Hilary Drury, as she supports church families
- Home Group Leaders as they keep in touch with members
- The Maintenance Team

Our Community

Homes and businesses on Priory Road, Queen's Road, Robertson Hill, Russell Street, Saunders Close, St George's Road and St Mary's Road.

The World

- The work of Barnabas Fund
- Colin Poyntz (Winslow Christian Fellowship, Winslow)
- Christians facing persecution in North Korea, Afghanistan and Somalia

COVID-19

- Health workers, caregivers and medical researchers; for protection, wisdom, and resilience under pressure.

Bible Focus - Ephesians 4:1-3

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

- That Emmanuel would walk in a manner worthy of the gospel, being patient and humble in our interactions with one another and prioritising unity

Wednesdays (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- Sunday Club Supervisor, Leaders, Helpers and children
- The Buildings Committee as they manage our premises
- The Projection Team
- The Gardening Team

Our Community

Homes and businesses on St Mary's Terrace, St Thomas's Road, Stone Street, Stonefield Place, Stonefield Road, The Glebe, Vicarage Road and Wellington Mews.

The World

- Marc and Yvonne Lloyd (Warbleton, Bodle Street Green & Dallington benefice, East Sussex)
- Tim and Emily Hay (City Church, Birmingham)
- The work of Sussex Gospel Partnership

COVID-19

- Those who are especially vulnerable, including those in poverty; for access to medical care and everyday resources like food and water, and for protection from the disease.

Bible Focus - 2 Corinthians 9:6

“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

- For Emmanuel to be generous in using all that God has given us to bless one another and our wider community

Thursdays (5th, 12th, 19th and 26th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- The members of our PCC to be one in thought and purpose
- The Crèche Team and young children at Emmanuel
- The Publicity Team

Our Community

Homes and businesses on Wellington Place, Wellington Road, Wellington Square, Wellington Terrace, West View, Whitefriars Road and York Gardens.

The World

- The work of Crosslinks
- Christians facing persecution in Libya, Pakistan and Eritrea

COVID-19

- Those who are particularly lonely or fearful; for God's peace to reign in their hearts, and for the comfort of friends, family and neighbours to be very real despite restrictions.

Bible Focus - Luke 9:23-24

"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.'"

- That Emmanuel would wholeheartedly follow Christ in every area of life

Fridays (6th, 13th, 20th and 27th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- Our Deanery Synod Representatives
- Administrator, Lisa Bonham
- The Buttons Team and the children, parents, grandparents and carers who come along
- The Welcoming Team

Our Community

Homes and businesses on Albert Road, Alpine Road, Ann Street, Becket Close, Bembrook Road, Calvert Road and Castle Gardens.

The World

- The work of Evangelical Alliance
- Michael and Sarah Farrier (Emmanuel, St Nicholas & Grace Church, Bath): for wisdom for Grace Church Bath (church plant) as they seek God's will for the next stages; give thanks for the growth which means having to think about the 'what/where next?'; give thanks for a really good first term back for all their children; pray for Sarah as her new business gets underway.

COVID-19

- National and local government leaders; for cooperation, good communication and sustaining energy.

Bible Focus - Matthew 16:18

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

- That Emmanuel will trust Jesus to grow the church in his way and with his power

Saturdays (7th, 14th, 21st and 28th)

Emmanuel Ministry

- Treasurer, Carol Eldridge, as she works on our finances
- Safeguarding Officer, Rowena Pelling, in this vital role
- The Music Group
- The Cleaning Team

Our Community

Homes and businesses on Castle Hill Road, Castledown Avenue, Collier Road, Croft Road, Egremont Place, Elford Street, Emmanuel Road and Gladstone Road.

The World

- The work of Speak Life
- Christians facing persecution in Sudan and Yemen
- Rachel Browning (Christ Church, Cambridge): give thanks for the Women's Weekend at Home looking at Malachi and pray for a closer more joyful walk with Jesus for all who came; for students and all who work at Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin in these challenging days, and for Christ Church to care well pastorally for them; for Christmas events planning, especially with all the uncertainty and restrictions; for the logistics of a 'Christmas trail' in the building for primary school-aged children, a creative way of bringing the nativity story alive.

COVID-19

- Families with children at school and with young ones at home; for patience, compassion, and a good balance between work and rest.

Bible Focus - Ephesians 1:15-16

"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

- For each member of Emmanuel to be grateful for our church family and give thanks regularly for one another

Buttons Team: Hilary Drury, Thelma Frogley, Cynthia Lovett, Lucy Sparks

Music Group: Lisa Bonham, Hilary Drury, Miriam Eisele, Holly Eldridge, Robert Eldridge, Robin Fahie, Nigel Harvey, Rachel Lane, Cynthia Lovett, Sue Page

Projection Team: Greig Burgoyne, Rachel Lane, Aza Shadenova, Naomi Wade

Sound Desk: Beckie Akroyd, Hilary Drury, Jim Goddin, Naomi Wade

Welcoming Team: Eileen Evans, Dorothea Fahie, Jen Farrier, Nigel & Janet Harvey, Paul & Bernadette Huggins, Geoff Martin, Viv Walkington, Dave Wells

Bookstall: Beckie Akroyd

Home Group Leaders: Michael & Fiona Davis, Robin & Dorothea Fahie, Nigel Harvey, Martin & Rachel Lane, Cynthia Lovett, Ben & Chloe Newman, Rowena Pelling, Dave & Annette Wells

TOAST Team: Holly Eldridge, Robin & Dorothea Fahie, Thelma Frogley, Nicky Goddin, Nigel & Janet Harvey, Martin Lane, Graham & Cynthia Lovett, Annalize Senol, Lucy Sparks, Viv Walkington

Christianity Explored: Martin Lane, Rowena Pelling

Publicity Team: Aza Shadenova, Naomi Wade

Cleaning Team: Lisa Bonham, Andrew & Sandra Budd, Berns Huggins, Graham & Cynthia Lovett, Geoff & Mena Martin, Rowena Pelling, Lucy Sparks, Annette & Dave Wells

Gardening Team: Nicky Goddin, Nigel & Janet Harvey, Geoff Martin, Tony Simons

Maintenance Team: Mick Farrier, Geoff Martin, Dave Sparks

Mums' Bible Study: Hilary Drury, Rachel Lane

**We are an Anglican evangelical church
in the Diocese of Chichester:**



**We are a partner church in
the Sussex Gospel Partnership:**



www.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

We are a member church of:



www.eauk.org

The three charities we support are:



www.barnabasfund.org.uk



www.crosslinks.org



www.speaklife.org.uk

www.emmanuelhastings.org.uk 01424 445184
Registered Charity No.: 1159229