



# SUMMER NEWSlink

Keeping you in touch with Emmanuel Church, South Croydon

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Summer 2009

Issue No.11

## IT'S MESSY CHURCH!



**‘So what did you like best about Messy Church?’ I asked my five-year-old daughter. ‘Well,’ she said, ‘probably the bit when we made the biscuits, and the parachute games, and sitting next to my friends at tea time, and the singing. Oh yeah, and the giant tree picture with all our hand prints on it.’ She holds up her (still green) hands and gives me a huge grin. ‘When’s the next Messy Church?’ she asks.**

Messy Church is a new monthly service with a difference for children aged three to seven and their parents, grandparents or carers. It includes many of the things that are in our other Emmanuel services – Bible stories, prayer activities and singing. But, as the name suggests, it also includes a lot more!

Messy Church starts at 3.30pm with a chance for adults and children to sit down after school or nursery, have a drink and spend some time together reading a story or playing a game. At 4pm we head into church to sing, shout, jump up and down, listen, learn,

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**‘All for Jesus - Jesus for All’**

visit us: [www.emmanuelcroydon.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelcroydon.org.uk)

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## IT'S MESSY CHURCH

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laugh and generally have a good time. At 4.30pm we head over to the Church Hall for Messy Time – loads of different crafts, games and activities for children to do with their parents. By 5.15pm tummies are rumbling, so we all sit down to tea together. All that's left to do is collect your fantastic craft creations and take your grinning, green-fingered children home!

The idea behind Messy Church is that it's something for young families to do together, so mums, dads, grandparents, babies, big brothers and sisters are all welcome too! Messy Church happens on the second Monday of each month (except in August), and costs £1 per person to cover food and materials. You don't need to know anything about church to come; you just need to be prepared to join in.

The next Messy Church is on Monday 13 July, and starts in the new part of the church building, accessed via glass doors. If you'd like to know anything more, please give us a call. We look forward to meeting you and your family!

Rev Bridget Shepherd

### ● Messy Church dates for the autumn:

12 October, 9 November, 14 December.

## OUR SERVICES

If you don't already join us at our services, you are most welcome to visit at any time. Three services are held at Emmanuel every Sunday. It is a special time that we'd like to share with you.

### 9.30am All-age service

A lively, informal all-age service, using the best in modern worship songs. This service has crèche facilities and children's groups available.

### 11am Morning service

A more traditional service of worship, teaching and prayer with psalms, some of the best modern hymns and biblical preaching relevant to everyday life.

### 6.30pm Evening service

A less formal service that includes contemporary worship music, relevant biblical preaching and prayer ministry in order to help people engage with God.

### Holy Communion

Services of Holy Communion are held on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30am, on the second and fourth Sundays at 11am, and on the third and fifth Sundays at 6.30pm.

Our services are held at Emmanuel Church, Normanton Road (off Croham Road), South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7AF. Church office: 020 8688 6676.

**For more details, visit:** [www.emmanuelcroydon.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelcroydon.org.uk)

## DIARY DATES

### 14 June, 6.30pm:

Confirmation service

### 20 - 26th September:

24/7 Prayer

### Baptisms

#### 8 March

Elizabeth Catherine Fillingham

#### 19 April

Joseph Richard Payne

#### 17 May

Oliver Albert Newsome

#### 31 May

Leslie & Luke Addai, Ben & Hannah King, Ebube & Emeka Orazulumbe, Anoushka Desai

## Weddings

### 21 February

Joe Richard Hayward & Nicola Dawn Munn

### 23 May

Rachel Holmes and Samuel Thanglah

## Funerals

### 7 February

Alice Lilian Kiddell

### 4 March

Winifred Hawkins

### 22 March

Florence Evelyn Deane

### 2 April

Winifred Goody



## Five minutes with...



**Hannah Strudwick, 16, who, along with several others, will be confirmed by the Bishop of Croydon at Emmanuel at the evening service on 14 June.**

**I go to Croydon High School** and am currently doing my AS levels.

**I have been going to Emmanuel** regularly for nearly three years now, since I was

invited to join Connexions - the weekly youth club for 14-18s that meets in the basement - by some friends.

**In the first half** of the meeting we chilled out, chatting and playing games, and in the second half we had a teaching related to the Bible and some sung worship. I had a brilliant time and that was when I became a Christian.

**Since then, I have been growing stronger** in my faith - allowing being a Christian to become an increasingly bigger part of my life every day. This has led me to take the next step of getting confirmed, which is important to me as it will properly declare my faith.

## A lifetime's work

The book **Not a Gap Year but a Lifetime** is the story of two doctors, Dr Leonard Sharp and Dr Algernon Stanley Smith (who was brought up by Alice and Emily Watney of South Croydon, who built Emmanuel Church). In Cambridge, in 1910, they responded to a visiting preacher who challenged the undergraduates to 'evangelise the world in this generation'. They felt drawn to East Africa and took the first step by going to Uganda. The doctors were convinced that medical work was the most effective way to reach out to people. They did not know how many difficulties they would experience. Writer Katharine Makower has chronicled these pioneers' remarkable life stories, with the help of their children, letters and photographs.

● *Not A Gap Year But A Lifetime* is by Katharine Makower (£7.99 Apologia Publications, [www.cms-shop.org.uk](http://www.cms-shop.org.uk)).

## I love... being a visual operator at services

**Paul Smith, 27, is a management accountant**

**What do you do?** As part of a team of 12 volunteers, I control the lighting, play DVD clips, display liturgy and song lyrics on the screens and run visuals using software called EasyWorship.

### How do you prepare?

An outline order of service is prepared in EasyWorship and is continually tweaked until just before the service starts. A lot of the images that accompany

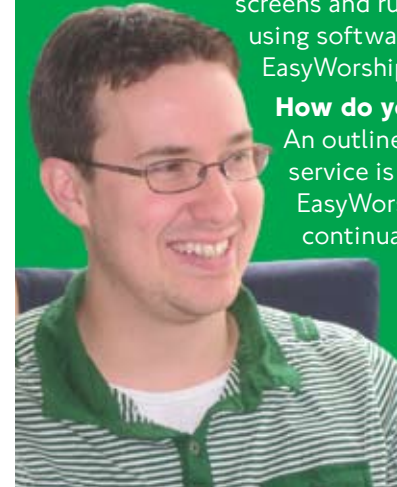
the music are chosen as the band rehearse to match the style of each song.

**What images do you use?** We have a bank of images but are always on the lookout for new ones for a fresh look. Most come from the internet, including specific websites for church media. New images are okayed by the music and worship coordinator Dan Blackburn before they are used in a service.

### How did you start volunteering?

My wife Rachel got involved in the music and worship team so knew that people were needed to help with the visuals. I thought it would be a good way for me to use my computer skills.

**What do you like about it?** It allows me to be involved in enhancing the worship in the services at Emmanuel without being too noticeable, which appeals to the introvert in me!



Read all about it in...

## OUR BISHOP'S BLOG



It's not often a bishop has his own blog, but since Bishop Nick Baines – also author, broadcaster and musician – started his in November last year, we've been privy to his insider's view. To read his blogs, billed as the 'musings of a restless bishop', on topics from 'girly music in church' to media morality, go to <http://nickbaines.wordpress.com>.

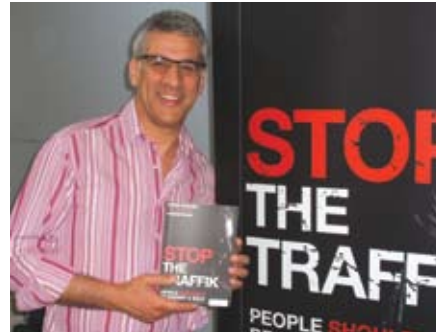
'We must be curious about the world, interested in the world and committed to the world in all its pain and glory,' says Bishop Nick. 'This blog will roam far and wide over whatever takes my eye or ear. I can understand why God loves the world – it's a wonderful and amazing place to be.'

## An agent for change

A recent Men's Breakfast meeting featured an inspirational speaker, Steve Chalke – a man of boundless energy! The founder of Oasis Global, the Faithworks Movement, Parentalk, and the Church.co.uk Network, he was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 2004 for his work in social inclusion. In 2007, he became the Guinness World Records holder for raising the most funds for charity in a single sporting event – by capturing his title in the London Marathon from Sir Steve Redgrave.

The main theme that he returned to throughout his talk was how to make the world a better place. With his customary wisdom, wit and honesty, he shared his take on what's wrong with much of society today. That our democracy is not working as it should is evident all around us. Why, he asked, do we elect our politicians as representatives then leave them to get on with running the country, and complain four years later when things have not turned out as we had hoped? Instead we should elect our representatives and engage with them in a participative democracy – keeping in touch with them throughout their term, and having two-way feedback so that our collective targets are achieved.

Steve also encouraged us to cultivate a more inclusive



Above: Steve Chalke is the Chair of Stop the Traffik, a global coalition of charities that is working to stop the buying and selling of people.

family approach to our community life, as depicted in the Bible, when the synagogue was the holistic centre for all of life. It was the place where you could get help in coping with problems, whether personal, social, or related to education or employment. We've lost that today and are all the worse off for it in an increasingly fragmented society where many people feel isolated, says Steve. The church has a vital role to play here, if only more people realised what resources it has to offer.

We left the meeting filled with enthusiasm – and wonder that one man can have so much energy and vision!

- Steve Chalke has written *Change Agents: 25 hard-learned lessons in the art of getting things done* (£6.99, Zondervan Publishing House).

- For details of other men's events at Emmanuel, visit the website or contact the church office (020 8688 6676).

By John Chambers

## Lessons in a cold climate

Canadians love the British! Donald Thomas says he was charmed to discover this on his recent eight-month visit as an intern with the worship team at Grindstone Church in Waterdown, near Toronto. 'I met lots of people on public transport; as soon as people heard me ask for a ticket, they'd ask why on earth I was there. I got myself in some odd conversations!'

Don experienced a steep learning curve as an intern. 'I had to grow quite quickly because I got thrown in the deep end straightaway,' says Don. 'I found I was learning so much, working eight hours a day in the church and spending time with people in ministry.'

A major highlight for Don was the 24/7 Prayer weekend which the church held for the first time. 'It was fantastic to be part of 24/7 Prayer in another country and see a whole church come together for a weekend of prayer,' he says. 'There was loads of amazing feedback and they want to do it on a yearly basis now. A lot of people said that it inspired them to pray.'

Having been brought up in the Anglican church, Don now has a fresh appreciation of it. 'Being away from the Anglican church made me realise what an amazing denomination it is. I think there's a lot of accountability, because there are so many levels of authority. It makes you feel quite secure



Above: Don showing his parents Sarah and Steve the sights on their visit.

– that so many people are praying about things and involved in decisions.'

The Emmanuel Global Mission Committee enabled Don to go to Canada by sponsoring the flights and some living expenses. He stayed first with the pastor's family and then a family that attended another church, so that he wasn't living and working in the same area.

Before Donald goes to Aberdeen University in September to study theology, he'll visit Moldova with a group from Emmanuel on a mission trip. 'I think I'll be able to share some of the things I've learned; I'll be more confident in talking to people,' he says. 'And just around church, as I get roped in to help, I'll be able to keep on learning. I'd love to still grow.'

'It was fantastic to experience the down-to-earth, practical side of ministry as an intern,' continues Don. 'I'd

recommend it as – although challenging and difficult at times – with the amount I've learned and the friends I've made, it has been absolutely massive.'

By Kirsty MacLennan

## SUMMER RENDEZVOUS

*A holiday at home for retired people*

**11-15 August 2009**

10am – 3pm

at Emmanuel Church,  
Normanton Road

Call **020 8688 6676**  
for details.



## Not just a day job!

**Ed Grint, 26, a professional singer working at St Paul's Cathedral and freelance, shares his passion for singing for God.**

**I've been involved in church music my whole life** but it was only about five years ago that I began listening to the words and realised that they had an impact on me. My wife Deborah dragged me along to Spring Harvest just after Easter in 2004 and it was the first time I had the chance to hear the Bible being read without worrying about the next piece of music we had to sing. The way I approached my job changed as suddenly I was not just singing beautiful music, but also worshipping an awesome God through it. **I'm lucky to be able** to worship God directly through my work and get to attend a church service almost every day. I have to remember never to treat the music I sing just as job, but as a means for the congregation to feel close to the wonder of God.

**I did my first singing** as a chorister at the Savoy Chapel in London. I went through the National Youth Choirs before starting at King's College, Cambridge. Even as a choral scholar, I never imagined singing full-time. I began training as an accountant when I left university, but soon realised that singing was what I wanted to do with my life, so I left after four months in

order to pursue a career as a self-employed singer. I now have a regular job at St. Paul's Cathedral singing the daily evensongs there, as well as three services on a Sunday. **I'm a bass** which means I get to sing all the low notes, and underpin the sound of the whole choir.

**St. Paul's is a fantastic place to sing.** The sound keeps ringing for six seconds which is really eerie when you first experience it.

**We sing all sorts of music** in the choir - from 12th-century plainsong psalms right up to modern music composed specially for the choir and special events. In general, we only have 25 minutes to put together a service that may last over an hour, so any music that is complicated to sight-read (generally the modern music) is the most challenging!

**To relax, I listen to jazz mostly.** If I'm being diligent and practising, then I like to listen to good baritones such as Bryn Terfel, Dmitry Hvorostovsky and John Tomlinson.

**I'm going back to college** (The Royal College of Music) in September to study singing full-time with the view to improving my voice as a soloist and opera singer. Thankfully, I will have time to keep my commitment to St. Paul's Cathedral.

**My mum is an oboe teacher** and my dad is an accountant.

Both were slightly concerned when I left my perfectly decent and safe accountancy job, but I'm very pleased I took the career path I have chosen. When I was appointed at St. Paul's, the director of music said to me: 'There are hundreds of accountants in London, but only one person with a voice like yours,' which really spoke to my heart.

**I adore singing the big old hymns**, such as Love Divine, All People That On Earth Do Dwell and Be Thou My Vision. I also love some of the newer songs, especially In Christ Alone and Hide Me Now. In the run-up to Easter I often get involved in performances of Bach's St. John Passion which is an extremely moving work, especially when, as the bass soloist, you get to play the part of Christ. It really brings the Passion story home.



Interview by Clare Fillingham

**This autumn will bring a big change for Chris Anderson and his young family. At the age of 44 he has been accepted for ordination training and they will move to Bristol where he will begin his studies at Trinity College in September. Formerly a senior civil servant and speech writer for Tony Blair, Chris told us about his journey of faith.**

'I was born in Thornton Heath, the youngest of eight, and even at a young age always enjoyed church, although like many people I stopped going for a while. At 16 I took a job in advertising and moved away from home. Sadly, my parents divorced and both died soon after. I was left to sort out their affairs which was a sad and difficult time, a real test of my faith. Yet I was aware of God's love and goodness.

'I met my wife Lisa and after we married we started attending Folly's End, an independent church in Croydon, and took an active role. I began to realise that you can follow Jesus on a daily basis without being perfect all the time, but being aware of him in your life.

'I had a new job in the Cabinet Office as a project manager and speech writer. Despite a comfortable lifestyle, I felt all the time that God had other plans

## Yes, Minister!

for me. As a result, in 2002 I resigned from my job, and we sold our house and moved to Cyprus. I wanted to explore my vocation and we joined a church in Paphos - 'high' Anglican and very different from Folly's End. The move felt right and led me to confide in the vicar, who asked if I'd considered ordination.

'A year later, we returned to the UK and I worked with the RNIB charity as an administrator and fundraiser. We discovered Emmanuel and I became involved with prayer ministry and community action - the Helping Hands initiative was one result.

'2005 saw the birth of our twin boys Isaac and Benjamin, though to our great sadness Isaac did not survive. This was a huge test of faith - where was God?

'I applied for ordination selection but was not successful. In another career move, I became a project manager for a church in Gypsy Hill, converting the church hall into a community centre, despite some opposition. Another community project was Christmas Letters to Prisoners, a long-established charity.

'In November last year, with support from the vicar, Trevor Mapstone, and Bishop Nick Baines, I reapplied for ordination and was delighted to be selected. I pray that any skills acquired over the years will be valuable in God's service. In a challenging new life, my aim is to be like Jesus to his people, and that after 20 years of searching, my journey is only just beginning.'

*From left Lisa, Benjamin, Isabelle, Chris and Timothy are looking forward to their move to Bristol.*



Interview by Helen Draper

## What does Emmanuel Church mean to you?

Displaying 8 quotes

See All



### Valerie Gower, retired

I really appreciate the Bible-based teaching and also learning and worshipping together. It enables me to

continue to grow as a Christian, without which maintaining a strong faith would be so much more difficult.



### Ashley Kerwood, student

I am involved in The Rock, with the youngest members and the Connexions youth group. The support I feel and

the guidance I receive from the leaders and others at Emmanuel help me to live the way God would want me to live and shape my life.



### Tina Thompson, teacher

Emmanuel is like having a very large extended family where I always feel supported and encouraged and being part of the 14-18 youth work is a lot of fun! Being a member of a church that is so alive and relevant to everyday life is very important to me and gives a real purpose to my week.



### Alison Lawton, primary care facilitator

Emmanuel is about the people, they help me to work out what it means to be a follower of Jesus. It's exciting being part of the community of Emmanuel, following God together.



### Alan Cook, retired

The biggest thing to me is the immense support given by members of the church family.

The wonderful feeling of being supported through prayer when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer will stay with me forever.



### Gordon McCallum, retired

I went through a period when I lost my faith. Then my daughter Fiona came to a service at Emmanuel and was overflowing

with praise for the service. The next Sunday I went with her and, 20 years on, the rest as they say is history. The church gave me back my faith and the knowledge that although I had left God he never left me.



### Lisa Brett, teacher

I value the support that I get from the other mums in my home group, in both the good and the challenging times! I'm

so grateful for the time to reflect and be challenged in my faith. I love seeing the joy on my daughter's face when her favourite song is sung during the 9:30am service. With a young family, it is the opportunity to sit in the church and give time to God, away from the chaos of the week.



### Tom Coningsby, retired

Now that I am in my seventies

I value the fact that Emmanuel provides very well for people like me. The 11am Sunday service

contains an excellent mix of the old and the new in worship. I especially value the good singing, the organ, the excellent prayers led by a member of the congregation and the high standard of the preaching.