



BE CONNECTED

this Christmas

THE IMPOSTER GOD

Over the past few weeks, my daughter, always up for the latest fad, has become obsessed with a new game on her phone.

It's called 'Among Us' and apparently everyone is playing it! So far as I can tell (and this no doubt shows my age...) it's a tech equivalent of the old standard, 'Wink Murder'.

As each person joins the game, they are told whether they are a team member or 'the imposter'. Team members have various jobs (on their spaceship, naturally) to be getting on with whilst the role of the imposter is to move among them, secretly dispatching as many other people as possible without being discovered.

Christmas comes this year at a time of international crisis. We don't know yet exactly how it's going to look, but it's tempting to think it might not be worth the hassle. Here at Emmanuel we want to declare that Christmas is **NOT** cancelled and that the wonderful news of the Christmas story is even more relevant than ever!

2000 years ago, God sent an imposter among us. This imposter was born like us, grew up like us, enjoyed the highs of life and suffered its lows, just like us. Unlike in the game, his purpose was not to kill, but to live a life of such radical love that he would die for us, thereby making it possible for us to find true connection with God.

2000 years on and he is still among us, even, and perhaps especially, at this difficult time.

So this Christmas our prayer is that, as we seek to be connected with one another, we would also find connection with Jesus - the life-changing, life-giving, imposter God!

Ben Jones

Associate Vicar

Christmas

AT EMMANUEL

SUN 20TH DEC
6.30pm Carol
Service + *

MON 21ST - WED 23RD DEC : 3pm-8pm
CHRISTMAS EVE : 2pm-7pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
10am Christmas
celebration + *

A Thrill of Hope

A 40min walkthrough experience for all the family +
(Sign-up from Mon 14th Dec)

Online version available
from Christmas Eve 6pm *

+ In-person event (Sign-up via website)

* Online event via
Emmanuel Croydon YouTube channel

MEET THE VICAR - John Adams

In September we welcomed our new Vicar, John Adams, to Emmanuel. He joined us from Emmanuel, Wimbledon but we wanted to know more.....

Hi John, for those who don't know you, tell us about your family. I'm married to Emily. We've come from spending 8 years in Raynes Park where I worked for a church and Emily was completing her medical training. We have four kids, Marina (9), Robin (7), Barnaby (5) and Imogen (2), and we have three pet rodents in tow as well!

How has it been arriving during a pandemic? I guess all of our lives have felt strange during this pandemic. Christian ministry has many of the same challenges - how do we connect with people when we need to stay physically apart? How can we build community when gathering is a danger? How do we share our faith with others when our lives are held apart? For me personally it's been harder to meet new people - I know you're there - it's just trickier to connect. Having said that it's been amazing to see how many people have gone the extra mile to keep worship and community going, whether that's through live streamed services, cakes dropped on the doorstep or so many other things besides. We've felt so welcome.



What do you think God has to say to us about 2020? We humans are made for hope. The priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal once wrote 'All human eyes have longing in them'. Deep down we have to believe in a way out of the valley, peace after the storm, order beyond the chaos. But we are also rational, reasonable beings - we care about the truth. We really need true hope. This year, with all the struggles of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of the future we feel that need more than ever. The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I believe, offer true hope. The hope of a relationship with our creator that begins now and will continue into eternity. That's enough hope to get us through even the hardest of times. And the first Christmas is where that hope first broke into our world in person. There's the thrill - **A THRILL OF HOPE!**

JOIN US ON A SUNDAY

SUNDAYS AT 10AM - in person (subject to prevailing Covid-19 regulations) or online via the Emmanuel Croydon YouTube channel. For more details visit www.emmanuelcroydon.org.uk

ADVENT CALENDARS

Be Connected with God on a daily basis
via our Advent Calendars

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



FOR EVERYONE ELSE

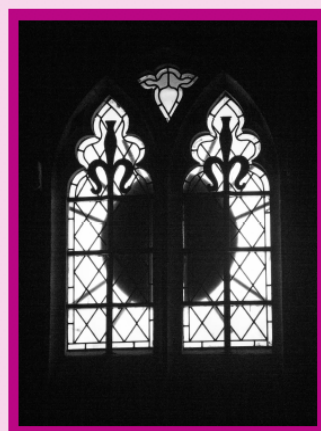


HOW DO I ACCESS THE CALENDARS?

- Scan the QR code above
- Visit emmanuelcroydon.org.uk/advent
- Contact the church office and we will send you a copy

SHINING OUT FROM OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Every day
during Advent
from 3pm
we will be
lighting up
a church
window
each with
a symbol of
hope to our
community.



**Come in your household bubble
& see if you can spot them all!!**



020 8688 6676



office@emmanuelcroydon.org.uk

BE CONNECTED...

via Rock TV

through worship



emmanuelcroydon.org.uk/whats-on/the-rock/

EMMANUEL WORSHIP ALBUM



AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD
FROM SPOTIFY, APPLE MUSIC
AMAZON MUSIC, DEEZER
AND ALL YOUR FAVOURITE
STREAMING SITES

Visit our Emmanuel Croydon YouTube channel

BIBLE VERSES THAT HAVE HELPED US DURING LOCKDOWN



MATT

And how does a man benefit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul in the process?
Mark 8:38



ARABA

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me
Psalm 23



SHERIDAN

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.
Psalm 84:10



LINDA

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. **Joshua 1:9**



THEO

Be still and know that I am God
Psalm 46



TORS

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

BLESSINGS BINGO - How many can you tick off this week?

Have a chat with a friend	Watch a beautiful sunset	Collect some leaves or something from nature	Have some exercise	Go for a walk in the sunshine	Bake something that didn't burn
Get in touch with family or friends via Zoom	Write a letter to someone	Read a book/mag that lifted your spirits	Buy something for somebody else and deliver it!	Watch something on TV/screen that you enjoy	Listen to some music that brings you joy

How can we help you?

PRAYER	Post a prayer request on our website emmanuelcroydon.org.uk
CARE / PRACTICAL HELP	Email us at care@emmanuelcroydon.org.uk

FAMILY PICTURE HUNT AT CHURCH

SAT 12TH DECEMBER

12 pictures to find outside church
CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?
SOLVE A PUZZLE WHEN YOU HAVE!

Words of Hope

T	N	R	G	K	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E	D
S	E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	M	E	N	T	U
T	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	E	E	E	J	O	Y
I	S	T	U	E	B	P	E	N	S	P	E	A	S
M	H	L	R	T	E	O	P	S	J	E	S	U	S
S	P	R	T	O	P	T	O	A	D	O	G	U	G
A	O	U	C	R	N	E	H	P	E	A	C	E	R
V	V	L	R	V	U	G	O	N	H	J	K	P	A
I	E	I	G	P	P	S	N	R	E	J	E	E	C
O	R	G	N	N	O	E	T	S	T	W	E	T	E
U	C	H	R	T	O	S	G	L	H	R	S	S	T
R	O	T	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	H	R	P
R	M	A	S	E	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N
S	E	C	U	R	E	W	T	O	E	O	U	C	O

PURPOSE
TRUST
HOPE
JOY
PRAYER
SALVATION
PEACE
ENCOURAGEMENT
SEEK
SECURE
STRONG
GOD
SAVIOUR
NEW
JESUS
OVERCOME
PATIENCE
REMEMBER
GRACE
LIGHT

God is our refuge and strength - Psalm 46:1