

Spring 2026

Knowing Jesus  
Transforms lives



EMMANUEL  
CHURCH

# Link



Joy!  
in my heart

*'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'*

John 3:16

Good news! God loved His world so much that He came down to earth to live as one of us and died in our place to bring us back into relationship with him.

We are a community of people whose lives have been transformed by the love of Jesus. And His love is for everyone.

[emmanuelchurch.co.uk](http://emmanuelchurch.co.uk)



## Happy Easter!

At the heart of Christianity is the good news that Jesus is not dead – he is alive! And we are looking forward to celebrating his resurrection together in a few weeks' time.

Every week we celebrate that Jesus transforms lives. He has changed my life, giving me deep peace where I used to feel anxious. He has changed the lives of hundreds in our church family, where each one of us can share our own story. And we have been celebrating with those who have come to faith over the last few months, at our regular baptism services for those who have met Jesus for the first time.

Jesus of Nazareth died on a Roman cross nearly 2000 years ago. But he did not stay dead: on the third day God raised him from the dead, and he is alive today to bring transformation to all who want him. We would love to welcome you to one of our services over Easter so that you can meet him for yourself.

Love, **Thom**  
Vicar at Emmanuel Church

Thom



# Transformed by Jesus

## My journey to peace

**Kate is one of our wonderful café volunteers and a part of our Emmanuel Church family. Here, she shares all about how her life has been transformed by knowing Jesus.**

My journey to faith was a very long one with many years of darkness before the light.

I grew up in an unsafe environment and experienced trauma at a young age.

I ended up in addiction in my early teens, using mind-altering substances to suppress the pain of my childhood, and it took 24 years to find God and get out of the seemingly endless cycle of addiction and trauma. I was absolutely lost, broken, and wanted to die.

I tried many ways to get into recovery. Rehabs, therapy and self will were all to no avail. I then watched my sister find recovery and a relationship with God after years of struggling with addiction. Her peace was very attractive, but I just couldn't seem to find God. One day I got down on my knees & begged God for help, and I really did mean it, handing my will and my life over to the care of God fully. Something started to change. I started to feel hope, my obsession with using mind-altering substances was being lifted, and for the first time in my life I actually wanted to be alive. I then started coming to Emmanuel Church and doing online meetings for believers in recovery, and I learnt about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I got baptised in May 2025 by members of an online ministry at Brighton beach and this was

completely transformative. I felt the darkness lift, knowing I was forgiven, washed clean of my sins and recreated in Christ.

I am so grateful every moment of every day for being saved. Jesus has worked an absolute miracle in my life and the peace I feel is something I've never experienced.

My favourite verse from the Bible is John 14:27 **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives."** This has

been my experience coming to know Jesus and his peace which surpasses all my understanding.

**I owe my life to Jesus and He is the stronghold of my life.**

Philippians 4:13 **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**.

If this story resonated with you and you'd like to talk with someone, please do drop into Emmanuel. One of our clergy or pastoral team would love to meet and chat with you.

**"Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives."**

John 14:27

Kate



## Hi I'm Melissa, the Children and Families Pastor at Emmanuel Church – it's lovely to meet you!

I joined the Emmanuel Church team back in 2013, and ever since then it's been such a joy to serve our community and walk alongside local families. There's nothing quite like watching little ones grow in confidence, curiosity and faith, and seeing how gently and faithfully God is at work in their lives. Here's a little glimpse of what a typical week looks like for me.



### Monday

It's Teddies time - our morning parent/carer toddler group! We have a wonderful time welcoming everyone, sharing tea and coffee, conversation and lots of joyful play. The space quickly fills with chatter and the sound of busy little feet and hands exploring. Teddies is often where I first meet families, and I love seeing those same children years later at school assemblies, holiday clubs or on Sundays at church, remembering their Teddies days! It's such a joy watching them grow and develop into confident young people, being a part of their lives.

**Our first Teddies session is at 9:30-10:30am, the second session is 10:45-11:45am.** If you're a parent or carer of a little one, do come and join us!

I'm usually in the office in the afternoon, planning, meeting volunteers and preparing for the weeks ahead. I also set aside time each week to pray for all the wonderful families and volunteers connected to Emmanuel Church. Whether you join us on Sundays or mid-week groups, please know that you and your household are being prayed for. If there's anything you'd like prayer for – I'd love to support you in this way.



### Tuesday

We meet as a staff team to spend time together, share encouragements, pray and update each other on what God has been doing in our church and community. It's always so inspiring to hear the

quiet and powerful ways God is transforming lives every day – sometimes in big visible ways, and sometimes in small faithful steps of everyday answers to prayers. And, yes, cake is a very important part of our meeting! Then it's off to Kids Alive, our after-school club, for lots of fun! Check out page 6 to find out more about what happens at our relaunched after-school club!



### Wednesday

Wednesdays are my main admin days. I begin with staff prayer time, then spend time meeting our amazing volunteers - ensuring everyone who works with children and young people is safely recruited, DBS checked and well supported. I also love popping into our café bumping into parents/carers, visiting Little Stars pre-school to share action songs and see what the children have been up to, filming for upcoming events, and planning future activities. Every day is different, and I'm constantly aware of how God brings new families into our community while deepening relationships with families who have known me for years.



### Thursday

Some of you may recognise me from **Open The Book school assemblies!** As part of the OTB team, we love to visit our local primary school to share a Bible story in creative and engaging ways. We dress up as different people from the Bible, bring in props and scenery to help tell God's big story! The children love to see us and join in, and it's such a joy to be welcomed by the school and staff. We have real moments of wonder and fun together as we weave through stories.



### Friday

Friday is usually a quieter, reflective day. I might quickly shop to make sure we have enough biscuits to go round on Sunday, and then I take some time to pause, listen and seek God's heart for our children, our families and our wider community.

### Saturday Rest day!



### Sunday

Sunday mornings are a joyful buzz of activity. It's when so much of what I've been planning and praying for comes together. **There are three children's groups during our 10:30am service: Crèche Church, Minis' Church and Kids' Church.** We play games, sing songs, share Bible stories, pray together, and explore the big questions children so brilliantly ask. I absolutely love their honesty, their imagination, and their curiosity toward faith. It is a joy to co-journey with them as they begin to consider who Jesus is for themselves. Watching faith take root and slowly grow is something I never take for granted.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of journeying with hundreds of children and families. I have seen toddlers take their first steps, shy children find their voice, friendships blossom, and families supported through both joyful and challenging seasons. Through it all, God has been loving, and faithfully transforming lives.

If you see me around Stoughton, please do say hello - I'd love to meet you!

# Melissa

Children & Families Pastor

# JOY

down in  
my heart



# KIDS ALIVE

## TASTY TUESDAY

3:45pm



Kids Alive (our after-school kids club) and our Tasty Tuesday (dinners for families) have joined up! If you've previously visited Kids Alive you will notice we've changed the layout and which rooms we're in. This is so we can welcome lots of families, have more wiggle room and all hear better.

Every Tuesday during term time we open our doors at 3:15 pm and serve refreshments in the Old Church- lots of tea and coffee for grown-ups, and biscuits and squash for all! The sports hall is open for games to burn off some energy after school and the Old Church has doodle pages on the tables for those who prefer a quieter start. At 3:45 pm we gather together in the Old Church for our action songs, Bible story, activities and prayer time. We enjoy being a big family together and then all get to share a hot meal with a yummy pudding together!! And ice cream and cake! Kids Alive is a great way to create space mid-week to connect with God, share with our friends and enjoy one another's company.

*Melissa*

Children & Families Pastor



# YOUTH

Our youth group is a pretty special bunch. This term has been a great one – from pancake parties and weekly groups to the launch of our brand-new Youth Club sessions!

## Midweek

**Youth Club** is our open community group for school years 7–9. Each week we gather to have loads of fun, build real friendships, and explore faith together in a relaxed and welcoming space. For those who want to go a little deeper, we also run bonus sessions called Connect, with space for bigger questions about God and the purpose of life.

We meet every Thursday during term time. Sign-up is essential and available via our website [www.emmanuelchurch.co.uk/youth](http://www.emmanuelchurch.co.uk/youth).

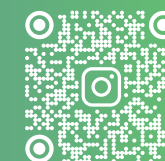
- Year 7: 6:30–8pm (Connect 8–8:30pm)
- Years 8 & 9: 8–9:30pm (Connect 7:30–8pm)

## Sundays

**Rooted** meets every Sunday morning during the 10:30am service and is for school years 6–9. Each week we worship together, explore the Bible, and share life with one another.

**Forged** meets every Sunday afternoon from 4:30–6pm and is for school years 10–13. Together we explore how faith shapes everyday life, support one another, and grow in confidence and maturity as followers of Jesus.

As a youth group, we also love leading the evening service once a month, hanging out at socials, and investing fully in the wider life of the church.



## Summer Highlight

This summer we're heading into our fourth year of **WAY CAMP** — our favourite week of the year! Expect big laughs, deep joy, meaningful friendships, and loads of time with God. Camp is for committed Christians and those curious about faith — everyone is welcome. Sign up through our website.

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with our Youth Pastor, Sarah Morton.

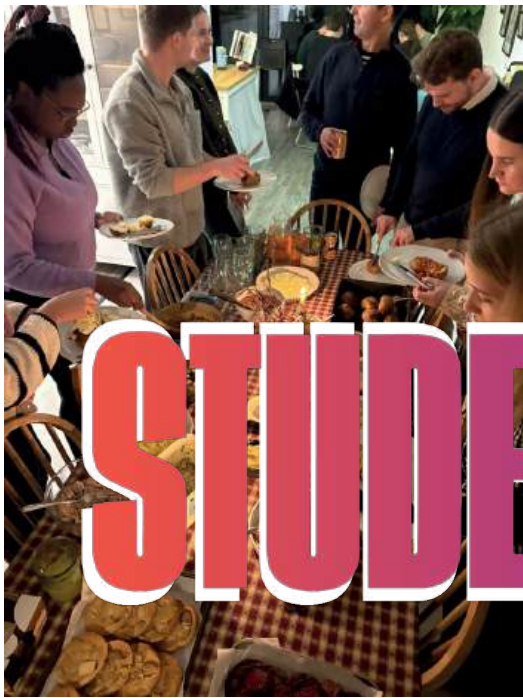
**Sarah Morton**, Youth Pastor  
[Youth@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:Youth@emmanuelchurch.co.uk)



## Emmanuel Community – Whats On?

There's loads going on at Emmanuel Church every week from the Art Group, Table Tennis Club, Badminton, Hear Here, Festival Celebration lunches, Gardening Group, U3A, Fitness classes, Rock Choir, Slimming World and much more. Do check out what's on at **Emmanuel Community Calendar** and see how you can get involved.





# STUDENTS + YA

Young Adults



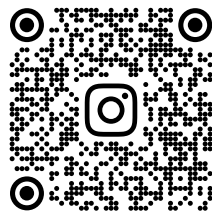
We've had a wonderful term in students & young adults. Our Wednesday YA group kicked off the term with a 'baked potato social' and have been going through the book of Acts in the Bible, and a book called Emotionally Healthy Spirituality each week.

We had our student & young adult weekend away in February, which was an amazing time in God's presence together. We ate a lot of food, worshipped, had a silent disco, and generally a lot of fun.

Our student group has been doing the Alpha course this term on Tuesdays, a course that tackles the big questions of Christianity - Why did Jesus die? How and why do I pray? It's been a great time of discussion, good food, and many people discovering more about who Jesus is.

Next term, students will continue to meet on Tuesdays, and young adults on Wednesdays. We're also heading to West Wittering on Sat 30th May for our annual student & YA beach trip!

Intrigued to find out more about Jesus? We'd love to have you join us.



Jacob

Students & Young Adults Pastor

For more info contact

[jacob@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:jacob@emmanuelchurch.co.uk)

Instagram:

[@emmanuelstudentsandya](https://www.instagram.com/emmanuelstudentsandya)



## Small groups

Across Emmanuel, our small groups are where people meet regularly to talk, listen, and support one another as we try to live well and follow Jesus in everyday life. They're a place for honest conversation, friendship, and making sense of life's big questions together.

This term, many of our groups are exploring a course called **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality**. At its heart, it's about discovering what it looks like to follow Jesus in a way that is emotionally honest, resilient, and rooted in real life. The course invites people to slow down, reflect on their experiences, and notice how their past, their emotions, and their relationships shape who they are — and to bring all of that into conversation with God.

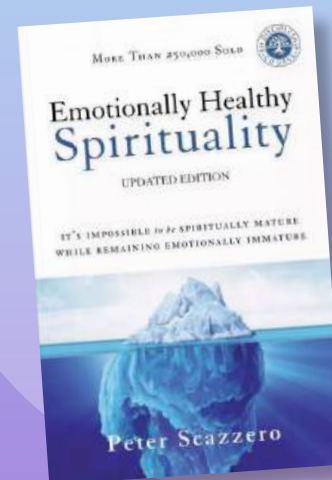
Rather than offering quick fixes, it creates space for thoughtful reflection, healthy boundaries, and lasting change. Many people find it both challenging and deeply freeing.

Small groups are open, welcoming spaces, and new faces are always welcome. If you're curious, come along to Emmanuel to find out more! For more information contact:

David

David Huggins

[david@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:david@emmanuelchurch.co.uk)



Jackie

## Friendship Club

Wednesdays from 11am, come in and join us!

Despite the gloomy start we have had to the year, we have continued to see a good number of members braving the weather to join us at Friendship Club! We have been very happy to welcome new members, some who come every week, others who drop in occasionally. We are always especially happy to welcome back those who may have been unable to come for some time due to poor health but can now return. Sadly, there are a few members who are no longer with us, and we remember them with great affection.

We recently had a visit from a member of the Home Energy Advice Team from Zero Carbon Guildford, who came to chat to us about energy-saving devices for our homes. As well as handing out free devices (e.g. a draught excluder for your chimney!) and information about grants available, they organised home visits to give advice to several of our members, which everyone found very helpful.

We always enjoy having our curates David and Jonny drop in for a chat and a game of Triominos or Scrabble, and we're looking forward to welcoming the Little Stars Pre-School children in to see us again soon.



## Café and Fairtrade Shop

Our Café and Fairtrade Shop are a buzz of activity all week. It's wonderful to see regular customers coming in for coffee and a catch-up, as well as lots of new faces coming in to check us out. We also have a bookshop with a selection of books available to buy. We love meeting new people, so do come in for a browse in the shop, some lunch or a delicious cake!

We are open during school term times Monday to Friday 9.15am to 2.15pm.

Follow us on social media for updates  
[@emmanuelcafeandfairtrade](https://www.instagram.com/emmanuelcafeandfairtrade)



## Community Litter Pick

- Saturday 16th May, 10am

Meet at Emmanuel Church before heading out to pick up litter in the local community. Followed by refreshments back at Emmanuel. Gloves and equipment provided and children are welcome as long as supervised by an adult.



## Christian Aid Plant & Jumble Sale

We'll be holding our popular annual plant sale in support of Christian Aid on 30th May. Come along to buy some plants ready for summer, and enjoy some refreshments in our café. This year we'll also be including a jumble sale where you'll be able to pick up some fantastic bargains! All proceeds go to Christian Aid.



## Wellbeing Café

Our aim is to provide a safe space where people can drop in on a Thursday morning during term time at Emmanuel Café, between 10:00 and 12:00 and also on the first Saturday of each month at the same time.

We have a number of people from our trained Pastoral team who offer a listening ear and will pray for any who would like to come and share in confidence, any situations and relationships that they may be finding challenging.

We believe as a church that community both inside and outside church matters, and providing a place to 'share and to receive prayer' really does make a difference as we shoulder one another's burdens together.

No concern is too large or too small – **'Don't worry about anything, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace.'** Philippians 4:6

For further details, contact:  
**Sarah** ([pastoral@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:pastoral@emmanuelchurch.co.uk)) or  
**Liz** ([chaplain@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:chaplain@emmanuelchurch.co.uk)).



## Alpha

We'll be holding a daytime Alpha course starting after Easter. Please register your interest with the parish office:  
[parish.office@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@emmanuelchurch.co.uk).



# Easter at



*Join us to worship our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ*

**30 March – 5 April**

<b>MON</b>	<b>Compline</b>	8.00pm
<b>TUE</b>	<b>Compline</b>	8.00pm
<b>WED</b>	<b>Holy Communion Compline</b>	10.00am 8.00pm
<b>THU</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	8.00pm
<b>FRI</b>	<b>Good Friday (All Age) Holy Communion Quiet Hour at the Cross</b>	10:30am 12.00pm 2:00pm
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Holy Communion Easter Sunday Celebration</b>	8.45am 10.30am



## ***Local support for Stoughton community***

Whether you are considering getting married, having your baby baptised, a thanksgiving service for your child, or want to be baptised yourself, we can assist you. Similarly, if you have recently lost a loved one and require help with a funeral, we're here to support you.

If you simply want to talk to a minister regarding any concerns you may have, our staff team is available to provide you with support, prayer and a listening ear. Please do get in touch with us at [parish.office@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@emmanuelchurch.co.uk) or call us on **01483 561603**.

**Emmanuel Church**, Shepherds Lane, Stoughton, Guildford, GU2 9SJ  
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 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**