

# At the heart of Christmas



*Celebrate Christmas  
at Emmanuel  
Onsite, Online, Offline!*

*Sunday 4 December*

**Annual Toy Service**

10.30 am

Bring along an unwrapped gift to be placed under our Christmas tree for Changing Pathways. Be sure to wear your Christmas jumpers!

*Sunday 11 December*

**Outdoor Family Carols**

10.30 am

After the success of our outdoor carols last year, we thought we'd do it again! This will take place on the overflow car park. Do wrap up warm and wear your Christmas Jumpers and bring something to sit on!

**An Evening with Graham Kendrick**

7.00 pm

We're delighted to welcome Graham and his fabulous band back to Emmanuel. Details and tickets can be found on [revPACman.com](http://revPACman.com)

*And His name will be called Wonderful,  
Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

*Wednesday 14 December*

**Lunchtime Carol Service**

12.30 pm

at Saint Mary Magdalen  
'The Church in the High Street'

Share in a festive buffet lunch before, or after,  
you enjoy your favourite Carols. Lasts for 45 minutes.

*Sunday 18 December*

**Messy Church 'Pop Up' Nativity**

10.30 am

A 'spontaneous' Family Nativity for our Messy Church families and children of all ages. Organised chaos at times, but always great fun!

*Wednesday 21 December*

**Longest Night Service**

8.00 pm

A service of hope and healing for those who struggle to celebrate at Christmas. This service may be especially helpful for those who are coping with bereavement or facing difficult life circumstances.

*Christmas Eve*

**Christingle Services**

3.00 pm & 5.00 pm

This is an opportunity for the whole family to spend time together before the excitement of Christmas night - with a Christingle Orange for children of all ages. Please be sure to book your FREE tickets online at [wegottickets.com/event/559676](http://wegottickets.com/event/559676) (3.00 pm) OR [559677](http://wegottickets.com/event/559677) (5.00 pm)

**First Communion of Christmas**

9.00 pm

After the busyness of a hectic festive season, enjoy the peace and reflection of the First Communion of Christmas by Candlelight.

*Christmas Day*

**Family Celebration & Communion**

10.30 am

A relaxed and fun Christmas celebration for family members of all ages. Be sure to bring a Christmas present with you to 'show and tell'!

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Part Of The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

It's almost hard to believe we've reached the end of yet another year. And what a year it's been. COVID still affects so many of our lives. Rail and postage strikes have taken their toll. We have a utilities crisis with more people living in poverty than ever before. Not to mention rising interest rates and higher mortgages and with the war in Ukraine we're closer to a European War than we've been since 1945. All of these things threaten our health, our livelihoods, our homes, our families, our communities, our mental health and even our faith. A bright spot was the Lionesses proving they could 'bring it home' at the Euro's – we'll have to watch this space to see how the men do.

Of course, the most significant event of 2022 was the Diamond Jubilee and the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – rocking the nation, and the world.

Despite what 2022 might have brought our way, Christmas is Good News to each of us and is still worth celebrating as we remember how Jesus came into this world to change the way we live.

*The heart of Christmas is the simple story of God sending His Son,  
Jesus, to be our Saviour.*

But we all know the true meaning of Christmas can often be lost in the busyness of the festive season. May I invite you, and your family and friends, to celebrate Christmas with us at Emmanuel and put Jesus back at the heart of Christmas!

As you will see overleaf, there are events to suit every age group and every taste throughout December. We have a new service this year on 'The Longest Night' which recognises that some people struggle to celebrate at Christmas – for many different reasons. Don't forget to book in for the Christingle Service of your choice and please note the First Communion of Christmas this year starts at 9.00 pm.

Be sure to mark these dates in your diary and don't miss out on celebrating the greatest Christmas gift of all.

*On behalf of myself and Emmanuel church, I wish you a wonderful  
Christmas and pray God's richest blessing on you, and your family  
and friends, this Christmas season and in the year to come.*

*PA Carr*

Revd Paul A. Carr  
Team Rector, Emmanuel Church.