

WHY LOCAL COMMUNITY MATTERS

Hi, welcome to the first edition of the community newsletter of Emmanuel Church.

We are a church in the community, for the community - our aim is to serve the people around us by showing them how to live a life of faith, purpose, hope and wholeness. You'll agree, that's pretty difficult to do nowadays, isn't it? We meet too many people who are lonely and feeling like they are on the losing side of life. How would it be to connect with a friendly bunch of local folks who care? Come along and join us, we are an active church, so whatever your interests, your age, your ambitions or needs and circumstances, there is always a place for you.

Don't worry, we won't bore you with lots of religious stuff, but please do excuse us if our passion for God and for people spills over every now and then. We want to be a part of your story, because as our local community, you are already a part of ours. Why not drop in or call us?

Ray

Pastor Ray Bindra

HOW TO BEAT THE RECESSION AND SMILE

We are offering a **free Money Made Simple Course**, a comprehensive yet surprisingly simple 3-week money management course to help you get, and then stay in control of, your finances. Courses are run by trained facilitators and start in June. Places must be booked in advance. If you are interested in learning how to permanently and successfully manage your finances, or if you would like to find out more please contact Brian Greenaway on 01322 272649 during the day.

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a Glimpse of Eternity

Ian McCormack's near-death experience



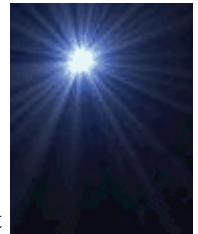
This is the amazing story of Ian McCormack, a man who died after being stung by a Box-Jellyfish but came back to life after a terrifying visit to hell and a wonderful vision of heaven.

Ian says, "One night while diving for lobster on the small Island of Mauritius I was stung on my forearm by five Box-Jellyfish. The local Creole fishermen call these "invisibles". A sting from a Box-Jellyfish often proves to be fatal. In Australia 70 people are known to have died from their stings. This particular type of Jellyfish is one of the most venomous creatures in the world."



In Hell

"By the time an ambulance arrived my body was totally paralyzed and necrosis had begun to set into my bone marrow. On route to the hospital I began to see my life flash before me. The ambulance stopped, they placed me in a wheel chair and raced me into the hospital. The nurse took my blood pressure twice but could not find a pulse as my veins had collapsed. The doctors tried to save my life by injecting anti-toxins and dextrose into my body. But it was no use, within a few minutes I seemed to slip away and found myself in a very dark place, not realising where I was. So I tried to find a light switch, thinking I was still in the hospital - but as I reached out into the dark I couldn't touch anything. Reaching to touch my face I found my hand go straight through it. It seemed so bizarre, as I knew I was standing there but couldn't touch any part of my physical body!"



A New Light

"As I stood there I began to sense that this wasn't just a physical darkness but that there was something else there. I could feel a cold eerie feeling as though something or someone was looking at me - a spiritual darkness. But as I stood there a radiant beam of light shone through the darkness and immediately began to lift me upward. I thought - darkness - hospital bed - am I out of my body? - is this real? am I standing here? or am I in a coma having some bizarre dream? Am I in my body or out of my body? As I looked back towards the light, it was still there. I responded "I don't know where I am, but if I am out of my physical body I wish to return." The voice responded "If you wish to return - you must see in a new light.""

Life after Death?

This is just the beginning of the story - find out what it's really like to die! If you have ever wondered about life after death then come along and hear Ian's fascinating story in spectacular detail, on 12th June. See our list of forthcoming events on the next page.

FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Family Fun Days on 14th June, 26th July, 5th September

These are social / fun days on Sunday afternoons, starting at 4:30pm, at Dartford Harriers Sports Ground with activities for all the family. These events are totally free and include BBQ's, inflatables, fun and games.

Family Services on 24th May, 28th June, 26th July, 30th August

These start at 10:30am and have a different format to our normal Sunday morning celebration services, and are a chance for people to hear amazing life stories, enjoy the music and get to know more about us.

Ian McCormack the Jellyfish Man appearing on 12th June, starting 7:30pm

Come and hear his captivating story about Heaven, Hell and the Box Jellyfish!

Nathan Morris, International Speaker with the Gift of Healing

appearing on 11th and 12th July. Nathan had serious drug and alcohol addictions until 2002 when a powerful encounter with God resulted in him being totally set free. Nathan has witnessed the deaf, blind and lame be miraculously healed and has seen thousands of lives changed around the world.

Premiere of 'The Voyage that Shook the World' Friday 3rd July 7:30pm

At Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford - In this year of the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of his book 'Origin of the Species' we are hosting the premiere of a film that retraces his famous voyage to the stunning Galápagos islands. This film will answer many questions about the evolution vs. creation debate. Book in with the church office.

You may have seen those bus ads saying "There's probably no God, now stop worrying and enjoy your life". Atheists admit that there probably is or probably isn't a God, they are not certain! So what's the real deal? We run special courses for those interested in finding out more about the Christian faith, in a way that allows everyone to have their say and ask any burning questions. Please telephone the church office and ask for Brian for further details.



**Are you in need of
healing and hope for the future?**

**Then come and hear international speaker Nathan Morris
who has seen thousands of lives changed!**

GET CONNECTED !

We meet every Sunday morning at 10.30am. This includes Children's Church for those aged 3 to 11.

During the week we also have:

- Insomnia Youth Group for those 11 to 19
- Connect Group for 20's to 30's
- Home groups for friendship and discussion
- Music Groups and Choirs
- Football Practice and Training Group
- Studies for practical Bible-based living

Other groups and events

We host a growing list of activities for the local community. Throughout the year we have special men's events such as sports events and games evenings; women's events including various retreats and Saturday morning breakfasts; youth events which will stretch any young person; and seasonal musical events.

Quilting Group - Social group for people who enjoy patchwork and quilting, meets every Monday evening from 7:30 to 9pm. Contacts: Linda Rohard and June Reavil

Little Fishes - Parent / Carer and Toddler group which meets every Tuesday during Term times from 12 noon to 2pm. The cost is just £2 per family and includes all activities, snacks and refreshments. Contact: Karen Ruby

ROAD55+ (Reaching Out to Adults in Dartford 55+)

This social group serves the more senior members of our community by providing them with a place to meet during the day and also arranges outings and trips. The group meets every three weeks on Mondays from 10am to 12 noon.

Contact: John Atkins

Star Kids - This Ofsted registered Kids Club provides excellent care for children both before and after school. It also runs a holiday club during the summer and other holidays. Please contact Yinka Thompson for details. Tel.: 01322 293920.

Contact Details

Senior Minister: Ray Bindra

Operations Manager: Brian Greenaway

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