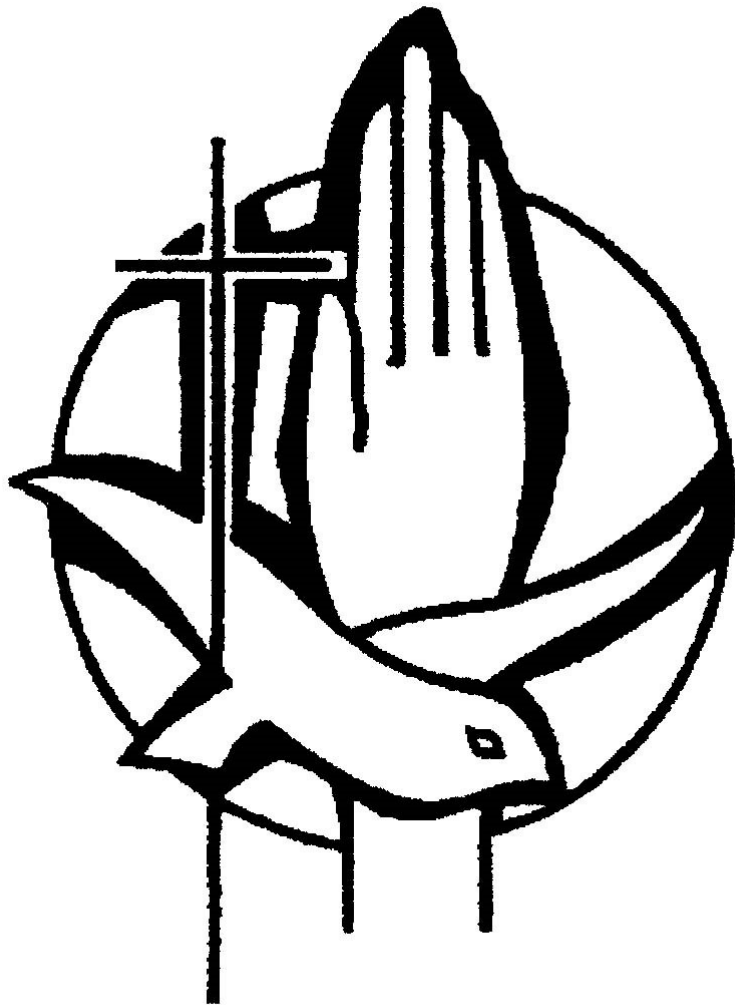


**EMMANUEL**  
*Loughborough*



**Confirmation Service**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**6.30pm at Emmanuel, Loughborough**

**Service Conducted by The Rt Rev'd Saju Muthalaly,  
Bishop of Loughborough**

# **“My faith story and why I want to say ‘yes’ to God.”**

## ***Candidates from Emmanuel Loughborough***

### **Evelyn Doyle**

I was baptised at All Saints Church when I was under 1 year old. I then went to a Christian primary school and that is when I started to learn about God. As I grew older, I started to question my faith and carried on going to church, but I didn't know if I actually had faith in God. When I went to church more and more, I realised that I wanted to grow my faith and that it wasn't going to be easy. I would like to be confirmed because I would like to strengthen my faith and continue to get to know God.

### **Testimony – name withheld**

I've always been a Christian. Learning about Christ, his teachings and how to live my life. This huge part of my life has helped me through losing family members, difficult circumstances such as lockdown, and life in general. I've learnt so much through Christ. I want to learn more and make this commitment to the Lord.

### **Testimony – name withheld**

I was baptised here at Emmanuel Church when I was 6 months old. I have been raised as a Christian – all my extended family, my godparents and my best friends are Christian. I have attended Emmanuel through Creche, Climbers, Discoverers, and now Pathfinders. Throughout this time, I have been learning about how God loves us and how he sent Jesus to die for our sins. I also know that I have sinned, through my disobedience and unbelief. Now as I enter my teenage years, I want to confirm that I accept Jesus as my personal Saviour and to continue in my journey of faith.

John 3:16 says God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whosoever believes in him shall not be lost but have eternal life. I would like to repent my sins and ask for God's forgiveness. I realise that there will be temptations to go down the wrong path. But I know that I want to trust God and that through my belief in Jesus, he will keep me on the right track to salvation.

### **Diya Ninan**

I was baptised here at Emmanuel when I was 1 year old. When I was 4 years old I asked Jesus into my life which sparked my journey of faith. I was blessed to grow up in a Christ family who supported me along the way. I am also very grateful for Emmanuel and my school for helping me to grow in my faith. I wish to be

confirmed because I would like to publicly declare my faith and choice in continuing to follow Jesus.

### **Laura Sharp**

I was Baptised as a baby at Central Baptist church in Leicester in September 1998.

I have always been raised as a Christian. When I was younger, I attended Central Baptist Church and went regularly to Sunday school. I learnt a lot about Jesus because we were always reading and learning from the Bible. Even though, as I grew up, I didn't continue to regularly attend church, I was always taught by my family about how to be kind, thoughtful and forgiving of others.

I have been coming to Emmanuel regularly for some time now and this made me interested in learning more about my faith. I attended Alpha group, and this is where I first wanted to find out about being re-affirming my Baptism vows and being Confirmed.

I volunteer regularly at the Salvation army charity shop in Loughborough for the last 8 months. This is somewhere I also feel that I am using my faith as they are a Christian charity, which is where I physically do the work of Jesus our lord.

By reaffirming my Baptism vows today and being Confirmed, I am standing in front of all my family and friends and telling them, I am a Christian and I am going to continue to grow in my faith.

### **Lara Ninan**

I was baptised as a baby. When I was four years old, I remember inviting Jesus into my life, and growing up I had a sense of God being with me. I had the opportunity to mark my first communion a few years ago and I am thankful to Christine who, over the years, has mentored me. I would now like to get confirmed to show my commitment to continuing to follow God.

### **Ben Crew**

My parents aren't particularly religious, so I never knew God as I grew up. It wasn't until I was a married adult with a child that my wife convinced me to come to a Church. From that first service, I knew this was something that would be a part of my life. The music, the people, the word. Cathy convinced me to join an Alpha course and that was it - I was a Christian. I had an experience with the Holy spirit during the away day. Then I was baptised here at Emmanuel by Ben Gardner. Through the years I have felt my faith grow and mature in the Holy Spirit.

## **Edward Winward**

I was baptised on boxing day when I was just three months old. My Mum would take me to church each Sunday and I went to a CofE primary school, I learned the Bible during this time. I have felt God is with me and has guided me throughout my life. I met my wife Zhijia in 2010 and she helped me to feel close to Jesus again. I attended Church regularly once more, I also started to read a chapter of the Bible each morning. I am so thankful to God for my life and my family. I would like to be confirmed to show my commitment to follow God.

## **Zhijia Yang**

In 2004, when I was in the middle of suffering from my first failed marriage, God found me and saved me. I was invited to attend a Sunday Service in a Christian Church in Hangzhou, China by one of my high school classmates. I was immediately attracted by the beautiful hymns we sang, the God's words preached by the priest, and the friendly Christians. Since then, God kept me and never let me go. I was baptised in July 2006 in Sichengtang Christian Church.

With God's help, my knowledge about God Father, God Son and Holy Spirit grows day by day. The more I know about God, the more I realise God is so true, Jesus is indeed my redeemer, and my saviour. God has forgiven me and blessed me with a new marriage. My son has come back to faith. I'm so grateful to God.

I'm so happy I have this opportunity to get confirmed here in public. May God continue to transform me and use me the way He likes.

## **Xueqiang He**

I started to attend Sunday School in 2004 in China. I stopped going to church in early 2010 when I was in my most difficult time in my life. God did not give up on me. I came back to faith on the New Year's Day in 2018. Since then, I read the Bible nearly every day. I was baptised on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 in Emmanuel Church. I believe God created the world; God created everything. God helps me a lot. God keeps evil away from me. I'm very grateful to God. I would like to get confirmed to show my commitment to God.

## ***Holy Trinity Hinckley***

### **Ethan Walton**

Hello, my name is Ethan. From a very young age I remember going to church with my grandma, but I didn't really understand what was happening or anything to do with Christianity. Eventually I stopped going to church at around 7 years old. However, after a few years, when I was around 11 or 12, I felt this urge to go back to church. From then I started to read the bible and attend church and was later

baptised. Now I am still learning new things about my journey through faith and my journey in life following Christ.