

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: August 2011*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 31st July

31st 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 31st 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 31st 11.15.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila and Daphne)
 3rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study / Report (Phil Symons)
 5th 10.00.a.m to midday Open House

w/c 7th August

7th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Marc Khunan)
 7th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 7th 5.30.p.m. "Together"
 9th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 10th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 13th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Philip Venables
(Justification by Faith)

w/c 14th August

14th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Darren Graham)
 14th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Neil Kinghorn)

1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch
 14th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service: (Neil Kinghorn)
 16th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study (Robert Goodgame)

w/c 21st August

21st 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise (Phil Symes)
 21st 11.00.a.m. Morning Service including Lord's Supper
 (Phil Symes)
 21st 5.30.p.m "Equip"
 23rd 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 24th 7.30.p.m Prayer /Bible Study

w/c 28th August

28th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 28th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 29th 11.00.a.m. Fellowship Day.
 31st 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 2nd (September) 10.00.a.m to midday Open House

News

Fabio De Campos, Michael Venables and Joshua Venables are due to be away at Camp with Christian Camps in Wales from August 6th to 13th. Pray this would be a spiritually beneficial time for them.

Jean Harwood has retired from working in Lighthouse. She has served there for the last ten years. Pray for Jean as she relinquishes this responsibility.

Michael Loosley has spent further time in hospital during July. Pray for him as he experiences much weakness.

Notes

"Equip" this month looks at the issue of homosexuality. We need to know what we believe on this issue. This is planned for August 21st at 5.30.p.m.

"Together" takes place on the first Sunday evening of the month. The time gives us an opportunity to share our lives and our faith together. This month on August 7th we plan to consider the subject of heaven.

Open House is taking a three week break this month. Accordingly on August 12th 19th and 26th there will be no Open House. This year we have seen more attending on a Friday morning. Pray for spiritual breakthroughs for the LORD through Open House.

Fellowship Lunch is also due to be held on August 14th. This is due to be on a bring and share basis. On this day we once again welcome Neil and Jayne Kinghorn to be with us. Neil serves the LORD with London City Mission. His particular work is with the Ambulance Service and on the Olympics sites. In the afternoon Neil will give us a report on his work.

Flowers If you wish to contribute towards the flowers which are displayed in the church you are very welcome to. To do so place your name besides the relevant date on the calendar in the entrance hall and then pass your money to Trish a little while before the date you have allocated to yourself.

Sunday School During August there will be no Sunday school during the morning service. Please continue to bring your children to the services, though, so that they can learn of our God in the service.

Fellowship Day On August 29th, August Bank Holiday Monday, we intend spend a day together based at the church premises. It is planned that the day will include Bible Teaching / Worship in the morning, lunch together and activities in the afternoon. Keith Bintley from Bishops Stortford is due to lead us in learning from God's Word on that day.

Spiritual Notes The providing of gifts to the church.

Last month we considered how God gives gifts into His Church. But what does this all mean in practice? It means that ministries in the church should match the gifts given to that church. The ministries in the church today should not match the gifts that were in the church twenty years ago. If we have people gifted in working with children then we should give ourselves to such ministries. If we have people given to work with older people then we should have ministries for older people. Perhaps there are both and so both types of ministries can be operated.

Ministries are built around gifts

Every ministry should last only so long as the LORD wants it to last. If there is no longer anyone gifted in the

church to continue a ministry then does that mean God no longer wants that ministry to continue? We should be brave enough to admit that this may be the case. This is not an easy matter? We may want to hold on to ministries. But our God is interested in building His church and not preserving ministries. We should share in what He, as our living God, is doing not preserve what we want to do.

There is a sense in which ministries in a church should be continually changing. As people leave a church and others join then almost inevitably giftings will change. And as giftings change so should ministries.

It is wrong to force "round pegs into square holes". If someone is not gifted in a ministry then they should not be forced into that ministry. Regrettably this seems to often happen when there is a desire that a ministry must be kept going at all costs.

There are jobs which need to be done.

In the life of the church there are times when everyone just has to lend a hand to get a job done so that the life of the church can go on. Such was the case in Nehemiah's day when there was a need for the walls of Jerusalem to be rebuilt. No doubt the priests (see v22) and the temple servants (see v26) could have insisted that wall building was not their work.

Working together.

We are all working together in the church. We have diverse ministries. But we have united goals. We are working for the glory of God and the edification of His church. We are not like the Corinthians competing to see who could have the best(?), most prominent gifts. Rather we are happy to do our bit for the benefit of all. In fact 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 indicates how we need each other. The body image there indicates how each part is essential for the functioning of the other parts and the benefit of the whole. This is clearly what was happening in Nehemiah 3 when all was being done for the achieving of the goal. That goal was the building of the city walls and each was doing his/her bit

We have different gifts

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (1 Cor. 12:29-30) These are questions Paul asks the Corinthians and he is expecting negative responses. Notwithstanding debates about what gifts God gives the church today we must expect that, according to the pleasure of our Master, he will give appropriate gifts to each of His people.

All have gifts.

The assumption of the passages referred to in Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 and Ephesians 4:7-12 is that all of God's people are each given a gift. It may be we have a "weaker" contribution to make (see 1 Cor. 12:22b), but it is still important in the Lord's purposes for His body.

God gives grace.

When we have an ability to do something the natural inclination is to rely on ourselves to undertake that activity. But both in Ephesians 4 and Romans 12 there is the mention of the giving of grace (see Rom. 12:3 and Eph. 4:7). Gifts are given according to His gracious giving and they are to be operated in and through His grace. We need to rely upon Him. Whenever we are serving using our gift we should always offer prayer that we would not do this work in our own strength, but in His.

God gives gifts to be used.

Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord." (Col.4:17). The Colossians were, as a church, to make sure that Archippus fulfilled the ministry God had given Him. He needed to remember that the LORD had given Him this ministry. We need to remember the LORD has given us our ministry; let us fulfil it for the glory of the LORD. Paul says concerning His ministry **We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me** (Col. 1:28-29).

The using of gifts in the church is a crucial part of God's plan for this age. We must make sure that we, as a church and as individuals, take heed to what God requires of us in this realm.