

# Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: September 2011*

*A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith*

## Calendar

### w/c 28<sup>th</sup> 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 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

### w/c 4<sup>th</sup> September

4th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
4th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
4th 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila and Trish)  
4th 5.30 p.m. - Together (Dvd on the life of George Muller)  
5th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer Meeting  
6th 9.30. a.m. - Prayer Meeting  
7th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study  
8th 6.30 a.m. - Prayer Meeting  
8th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer Meeting  
9th 9.00.a.m. - Prayer Meeting  
9th 10.00 a.m. to midday - Open House  
10th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting  
10th 10.30.a.m. - Town Centre Evangelism  
10th 7.00. p.m. - Feltham Bible Focus (*Paul Garner; Creation or Evolution: Do we have to choose?*)

### w/c 11<sup>th</sup> September

11th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Paul Garner)  
11th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Paul Garner)

11th 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Daphne and Comfort)  
11th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch  
11th 2.00.p.m. - Afternoon Service (Interview with Paul Garner)  
13th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting  
13th 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse  
14th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study  
15th 7.30.p.m. - Church Members Meeting  
16th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

### w/c 18<sup>th</sup> September

18th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer and Praise (Philip Venables)  
18th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Philip Venables) including Lord's Supper  
18th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Trish and Diana)  
18th 5.30.p.m. - Equip (Abortion)  
21st 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse  
22nd 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study  
24th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

### w/c 25<sup>th</sup> September

25th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Robert Goodgame)  
25th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Andy Osgood)  
25th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila and Comfort)  
27th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting  
27th 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse  
28th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study  
30th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

## News

Zac Morrison, Genese Kur and Joshua Venables are due to start new phases in their education this month. Zac commences studies at Halliford School in Shepperton, Genese at Bishop Wand School in Sunbury and Joshua at the Centre for Young Musicians in London.

## Notes

Fellowship Day On the August Bank Holiday Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, we plan to have a day together as a fellowship. We plan to:

- have some Worship / Bible Teaching in the morning. Keith Bintley from Bishop's Stortford is due to be the preacher.
- Have a lunch with barbeque type food.
- have opportunity to have time together in the afternoon for activities etc.

All connected with the church are welcome.

Feltham Bible Focus this month sees us looking at the issue of origins. Paul Garner from Biblical Creation Ministries is due to be with us. His subject is Creation or Evolution: Do we have to Choose? This is due to take place on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.00.p.m.

Fellowship Lunch Paul is also staying over to be with with for the Lord's Day on September 11th. In the afternoon at 2.00.p.m. Of that day, through an interview format, Paul will tell us something of his work in standing for the LORD in the sphere of Creation ministry. We look forward to his visit. Pray for a blessing upon him and us. On that day we plan to have a fellowship lunch together. This is to be on a bring-and-share basis.

Week of Prayer On September 4th we begin a week of prayer. As we move into the "autumn term" this gives us an opportunity to pour out our hearts and prayers to God desiring that He might glorify Himself among us. See calendar for the details of when the prayer meetings are due to take place.

Fasting As we spend a week particularly seeking the LORD for the future it is good to consider individually the call of God to give ourselves to fasting as well.

Church Members Meeting A meeting is arranged for church members on September 15th. Pray that we might have a good time of fellowship as we consider the life of the church together.

Evangelism We plan to continue our evangelism in the town centre once a month on the second Saturday. Tim Whitton plans to be with us help us in this work when he can. Seek the LORD that many might find the LORD through this ministry.

Sunday School and Lighthouse recommence on September 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively. It is great to have children amongst us in church. Pray for the children and the teachers working among the children.

Equip takes place on the third Sunday of the month. This month we plan to look at the subject of abortion.

A "Walk through the Old Testament" seminar is due to take place at Maswell Park Evangelical Church on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Tel. 07717 235615 for details

## **Spiritual Notes** *Whatever happened to worldliness?*

Christians of former generation readily acknowledged that there were certain interests and activities which were worldly. No doubt too many rules and regulations were constructed to overly define what was worldly, but nevertheless there was a sensitivity to making sure the we did not get involved in worldly ways. Alas it seems it is no longer so. Nowadays Christians seem rather to excuse dubious behaviour by claiming they have freedom in Christ and maligning any prohibition on certain activities as being “legalistic”.

What should our attitude to the world be? When we become Christians our relationship to the world changes. Paul says: **May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world** (Gal. 6:14). This raises the question then what is the world? We can say that the world is that system which is arranged without reference to God and stands opposed to God. It includes the social, political, economic, religious aspects. It is driven by self-fulfilment and not God-fulfilment. Paul says that the world system stands crucified in relation to himself through the cross of Christ. Essentially he is saying that he is dead to the world. He no longer is motivated to gain fulfilment through the world. Rather his life and fulfilment is found in Christ.

This raises the question, though, as regards to the what constitutes legitimate interest in God's wholesome creation and what constitutes worldliness. One means of testing the difference is to apply the call of Paul in Philippians 4:8: **brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.** With regard to what we watch, what we do and what we are interested in it is helpful to ask whether or not such activity passes this test.

It is a cause for concern that many Christians are engaging themselves with material which seems to clearly fail the test. Let us focus on one realm and that is what we watch. Mary Whitehouse and her colleagues, in former days, courageously stood up and spoke out against immoral material on TV. But now we as Christians seem to have become de-sensitized as regards to what we watch. As we come to autumn, “Strictly Come Dancing” and “X-factor”, once again, take prominence on our screens. Do they pass the Philippians 4:8 test? Even the Daily Express was wondering last Autumn whether “Strictly” had gone too far as regards to the clear sexual suggestiveness. And then there was the lewd dancing in the X-factor final last year which so many people complained about.

Further, we can think of “the soaps”. What are the likes of Coronation Street and Emmerdale concerned with? These programmes serve up a diet of adultery, homosexuality, flirtatious behaviour, fornication and all in the name of entrainment. Should we as Christians happily sit and watch such stuff? What they are doing is entertaining us with material that in the reality of life leads to devastation and sadness. When you marinate some meat you fill the meat with a certain flavouring. How many Christians are marinating their minds in worldliness by watching the soaps and similar stuff.

Let us come at this issue another way. You say that the worship services in church are dull and boring and “I don't get much out of them”. Well if you have been watching “Strictly” or “X-Factor” on a Saturday night that is hardly good preparation for the Spirit filled engagement with the worship of our God on the LORD's Day. You may be the church member who is causing the dullness of the services because you are injecting no spiritual power into them. How can we know the joy of the LORD in Christ our Saviour when we have soaked ourselves in the immorality of this world? Rather we should be soaking ourselves in the wholesome Word of the LORD.

Moreover, the consumption of worldliness in our viewing habits will no doubt affect our characters. When we are worldly we have a craving for self-fulfilment. Self-centredness is the outcome of such a craving. However, what we should be is godly and thereby God-centred. Accordingly when worldliness invades the church then the church becomes a “me” place rather than a “God” place. The more worldliness there is in the lives of the church members then the less of God there will be in the church.

It has been said that we are what we think. It might also be helpfully observed that we become what we watch. Let us be careful what we let pass before our eyes. Job could say “**I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman** (Job 31:1). Perhaps we should think about making a similar covenant and so preserve ourselves from harm.