

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: January 2017

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Calendar

w/c 25th December

Sun 25th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
Sun 25th 11.00.a.m. - Christmas Morning Service (Philip Venables)
Wed 28th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer and The Word
Thurs 29th 7.30.p.m. - Feltham Journey Discussion
Sat 31st 5.00.p.m to 8.30.p.m - New Years Eve Party

W/c 1st Jan 2017

Sun 1st 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Marc Khunan)
Sun 1st 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)
Sun 1st 5.30.p.m. - Together
Tues 3rd 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 3rd 8.00.p.m. - Elders Meeting
Wed 4th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer and The Word
Thurs 5th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Fri 6th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Sat 7th 11.00.a.m. - Evangelism

W/c 8th Jan

Sun 8th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Michael Venables)
Sun 8th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Neil Kinghorn)
Sun 8th 11.15.a.m - Sunday School (Trish)
Sun 8th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch
Sun 8th 6.30.p.m. - Prayer Meeting
Mon 9th 7.30.p.m.- Prayer Meeting
Tues 10th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 10th 11.15.a.m. - Fred Hume's Funeral
Tues 10th 5.00.p.m. - Young Person's Bible Study
Tues 10th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Wed 11th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Marc Khunan)
Thurs 12th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 12th 7.30.p.m - Prayer Meeting
Fri 13th 9.15.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Fri 13th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Fri 13th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 14th 9.00.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 14th 9.30.a.m. - Leaflet distribution.
Sat 14th 7.00.p.m - Feltham Bible Focus; *Why is my marriage not working?* (Keith Wilson - Ashford Congregational Church).

W/c 15th Jan

Sun 15th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer and Praise (Philip Venables)
Sun 15th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship including Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
Sun 15th 11.15.a.m - Sunday School (Sheila)
Sun 15th 5.30.p.m - Equip (Men and Women are the Same!)
Tues 17th 9.30.a.m - Prayer Meeting
Tues 17th 5.00.p.m. - Young Person's Bible Study
Tues 17th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Tues 17th 8.00.p.m. - Elders meeting
Wed 18th 7.30.p.m. - Mission Prayer / Bible Study (Is. 44:21-45:13)
Thurs 19th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 19th 7.30.p.m. - Church Members Meeting
Fri 20th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Sat 21st 9.00.a.m. - Cleaning and Maintenance

w/c 22nd Jan

Sun 22nd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
Sun 22nd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Philip Venables)
Sun 22nd 11.15.a.m - Sunday School (Diana)
Tues 24th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 24th 5.00.p.m. - Young Person's Bible Study
Tues 24th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Wed 25th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study / Report (Dominic Stockford)
Thurs 26th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 26th 7.30.p.m. - Feltham Journey Discussion
Fri 27th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Fri 27th 9.00.p.m. to Sat 28rd 1.00.a.m. - Revive

W/c 29th Jan

Sun 29th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
Sun 29th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Philip Venables)
Sun 29th 11.15.a.m - Sunday School (Trish)
Tues 31st 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 31st 5.00.p.m. - Young Person's Bible Study
Tues 31st 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Wed 1st (Feb) 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Is. 45:14-25)
Thurs 2nd 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Fri 3rd 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Sat 4th 8.30.a.m. - Ladies Breakfast
Sat 4th 11.00.a.m. - Evangelism

Notes

Fellowship Lunch On Sunday 8th January we intend to have a bring-and-share fellowship lunch together. Neil and Jayne Kinghorn are due to be with us. We have supported them now as a church for some sixteen years. During the day they will be sharing something of the work in which they are involved.

Equip Men and Women are the same! Is that true? On January 15th at 5.30.p.m. Come along to find out more.

Church Members Meeting A meeting is arranged for church members on January 19th at 7.30.p.m. Pray that we might have a good time of fellowship as we consider the life of the church together.

Marriage Feltham Bible Focus on January 14th sees us seeking to learn from Scripture so as to have better marriages. Keith Wilson is the preacher and his subject is: Why is my marriage not working?

Together One of our missionary contacts is with the Elam church in Ethiopia. Simon Doyle, from Amyand Park Chapel, recently visited them and as part of Together he will update us on the work of the Lord among them.

Week of Prayer and Fasting This is due to begin on January 8th:

- As we move into the new year this gives us an opportunity to pour out our hearts in prayer 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.
- As we seek the Lord, it is good to think about the call of the Lord upon us to fast. Why not think of missing one or two (or more) meals during the week as we pray into the life of the church. In particular we plan to use the period of 8.30.a.m on Friday 13th to 8.30.a.m on Saturday 14th as a fasting time. From 8.30.a.m on the Saturday we intend to break-fast together at the church building

Leaflet Distribution On 14 January from 9:30.a.m. onwards we are hoping to distribute our new "Welcome" leaflets. These contain personal testimonies of some people in the fellowship. If you are available then come lend a hand. Much of what we will be doing will be putting these leaflets through doors. Alternatively come and support the work in prayer at the church whilst others are out distributing.

New Year's Eve On Saturday December 31st we are due to have a Church Family New Years Eve party. We plan to have some games, food and a time of worship and prayer. The party is due to be between at 5.00.p.m. and 8.30.p.m.

The Feltham Journey As we enter 2017 we set ourselves, once again, to read the Bible in two years. This time we plan to read through scripture chronologically. "The Feltham Journey" gives a great opportunity to get the reading of Scripture into our daily lives. The reading plans are in the entrance hall at church. For further information please speak to Mark. Finally, once a month on the last Thursday of the month (January 27th this month), there will be a time to meet up to discuss what we have been learning for any who wish to do so.

Bethlehem Chapel in Richmond have a service on January 28th at 2.30.p.m to mark the 220th anniversary of the church and also to induct Robert Goodgame as pastor of the church there. We are invited to join with them on this special occasion.

Spiritual Notes

We Believe the Whole of the Bible

We are Feltham Evangelical Church. One of the key implications of being “evangelical” is that we are a Bible Church. As a Bible Church, we believe it is scripture which determines our message, arrangements and conduct. We could effectively (and happily) be renamed Feltham Bible Church. It is important to stress that it is the whole of the Bible which we take heed to in our lives and in our church. We are an “all the Bible” church! We are not a church that picks and chooses which parts of the Bible we want to follow.

Do we need to study all the Bible? Paul, when he was recalling his ministry among the Ephesians, said to the elders of that church that **I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God** (Acts 20:27). Paul was set on declaring all that was in the Word of God and so should we be. He knew that the Ephesians would only be healthily established in the Lord if the whole of the revelation of God in scripture was brought to them. No Scripture should be “out of bounds” for us. Rather, all Scripture should be believed, read, preached and obeyed. In view of this, if you observe anything in Scripture which is not being lived out in and by our church then you should approach the elders and question why we have such an omission.

What is the main message of the Bible? We have established, therefore, that it should be the full revelation of God which drives us. However, we have to study scripture properly. That means that we view each part of Scripture in the context of what is taught in the whole of scripture. Accordingly, it is critical that we understand what the main theme of the Bible is. The key theme of the Bible is how a people messed up by sin have been rescued by the salvation of Jesus Christ so that they might be for His glory. The focus of the Bible is on Jesus Christ.

When we study the Word of God knowing that the focus is on Jesus Christ, we will see that all of the Old Testament looked forward to His coming. This will shape how we view these scriptures. So we will see, for example, that the offerings and sacrifices in the Old Testament all anticipated the one offering and sacrifice of Christ. This means that the passages about the sacrificial system should be treasured and studied as they reveal so much of what our Lord Jesus was set to do.

We have to make it clear then that all Scripture should be rightly understood. Accordingly, every Christian should be like Timothy was urged to be **a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth** (2 Tim 2:15b). Every Christian should be a thinking

Christian which means they should be pondering and meditating on scripture. And in doing so they will be making sure they understand where each scripture fits in with God's revelation.

Does some Scripture become less important over time? The abiding character of all the Word of God is firmly laid before us when our Lord Jesus said that **Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away** (Luke 21:33). Further, He said in Matthew 5:18 **For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.**

How much of Scripture is relevant for the Christian? To which we reply that all of it is relevant. As Paul's says to Timothy **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness** (2 Tim. 3:16). In view of this, we encourage all to read and study and understand all of scripture. Accordingly two happenings in the church in the New year are pertinent to mention here:

- The Feltham Journey (see Notes). This gives us opportunity to read through all the Bible.
- Preaching through Deuteronomy. We plan to start to journey through this part of Scripture in the new year confident that the study of it will yield much that is relevant for our lives.

Is Scripture complete? The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is important here. In Hebrews 1:1-2a we read **In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.** Our Lord Jesus is the full and final revelation of God. That should never be forgotten by the Christian. The New Testament completes this revelation. Thus we can reasonably say that Jesus Christ is anticipated in the Old Testament, described in the Gospels, proclaimed in Acts, analyzed in the epistles and glorified in Revelation. It is then fitting that the Bible finishes with Revelation which is **the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ** (Rev. 1:2b). Pertinently, as the Bible concludes the warning comes that we should not add or take away from Scripture (see Rev. 22:19-20).

We move on, not just as people who pick and choose which parts of the Bible they want to take heed to, but as "all the Bible" people who take heed to all Scripture.