

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: November 2020

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Calendar

w/c 25th October

Sun 25th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Dmitri Filchev)
Sun 25th 11.00.am. - Morning
Worship (Andrew Heron)
Sun 25th 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Philip Venables)
Tues 27th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting.
Wed 28th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Andrew Heron)
Thurs 29th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 31st 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting.

w/c 1st November

Sun 1st 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Philip Venables)
Sun 1st 11.00.am.- Morning Worship
(Philip Venables)
Sun 1st 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Chungman Shon)
Tues 3rd 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 4th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Acts 1:12-26)
Thurs 5th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 7th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 8th November

Sun 8th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Andrew Heron)
Sun 8th 11.00.am.- Morning Worship
(Philip Venables)
Sun 8th 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Philip Venables)
Tues 10th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 11th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Mark Henderson)
Thurs 12th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 14th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting.

w/c 15th November

Sun 15th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Dmitri Filchev)
Sun 15th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship
(Philip Venables)
Sun 15th 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Joseph Michael)
Tues 17th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 17th 8.00.pm – Leadership
Meeting
Wed 18th 7.30.pm. - Mission Prayer /
Bible Study (Acts 2:1-13)
Thurs 19th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 21st 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 22nd November

Sun 22nd 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Philip Venables)
Sun 22nd 11.00.am.- Morning Worship
(Nathanael Evans)
Sun 22nd 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Nathanael Evans)
Tues 24th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 25th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Acts 2:14-41)
Thurs 26th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 28th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 29th November

Sun 29th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Allan Nava)
Sun 29th 11.00.am.- Morning Worship
(Philip Venables)
Sun 29th 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Philip Venables)
Tues 1st (December) 9.30.am. - Prayer
Meeting
Wed 2nd 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Acts 2:42-47)
Thurs 3rd 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 5th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

News

Allan Nava is now a member of the church. Pray for him as he links with us in the service of the Lord.

Mounicka Valiveti is due to be baptized on November 1st. Pray for her as she takes this step of obedience.

Zach Mollallegn has now stepped down from eldership in the church. He has faithfully served the Lord and the church since April 2015 in this capacity. Pray for him that he would continue to have fruitful ministry in the life of the church. A further change also took place for Zach with him commencing to work in the Children's Services Department of Buckinghamshire Council on September 7th. Pray for him in this new responsibility.

Notes

Leadership Mark, as evangelist, and Philip, as pastor, now serve as leaders of the church. Pray for them that they would be full of wisdom, grace and all of the Lord's enabling as they serve in leadership together. They plan to meet together for prayer and to consider the issues of the church every third Tuesday of the month. Pray also for the raising up and recognising of further leaders among us.

Service Arrangements We continue to use a mixture of meeting together "in the flesh" and online technology for our services. We plan to continue to do this.

Evangelism We had a good meeting on October 8th to consider our moving forward in evangelism. We want to be an outward looking, evangelistic church. Let us be praying to that end. And be praying for Mark as he considers the options for our evangelistic endeavours.

Spiritual Notes

Vows: How Important are they?

Numbers 30 is something of a nonsense to our culture. The principle is set in v2: **If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.** The rest of the chapter unpacks how this command of the Lord is to be worked out.

Such a command is a nonsense to our culture because we are very prone to break our word and think nothing of it. Commitments are made easily and broken even more easily. But it should not be so among the people of God. The Lord Jesus, in the context of making vows, said **Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil** (Matt. 5:37). We should do what we say and say what we do. Straight forward words and lives consistent with those words should be what are demonstrated by Christians.

When we read the story of Jephthah and his daughter in Judges 11 we tend to be perplexed. We think that Jephthah made a rash vow and really should have accepted that it was such. He should have brushed it off as something he had done “under pressure” and lived happily ever after with his daughter happily very much still alive. However, in a society where vows matter, the get-out of rashness is not available. The dilemma of Jephthah is summed up when he says to his daughter **I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.**” (Judges 11:35b).

Why did the Lord view vows to be so important? It is because the keeping of vows leads to trust, honour and respect in a society. On the contrary the breaking of vows leads to corruption, deceit and disrespect. The vow keeping society prospers and the vow breaking society decays. When we hear statements like “who can you trust these days”, as we often do, we are discovering that we are in a society where vow breaking is common. Alas, such a society is a decaying society.

So how do we match up to being a vow keeping people. If we take a vow we should determine with all that is in our strength to keep those commitments. From the big issues of marriage to the small issues of meeting someone for coffee we should keep our vows.

And that reminds us that Christians go into marriage without a get-out clause they go in with the intention of keeping their vows to one another.

Members at Feltham Evangelical Church are required to take these vows:

- Are you a Christian?
- Have you been born again by the Holy Spirit of God?
- Have you believed in the LORD Jesus Christ as your own Saviour who gave Himself on the cross to take away your sins?
- Do you commit yourself to living, with the Lord's help, a God honouring life being obedient to the commands of God?
- Do you commit yourself to supporting the leadership, members and activities of Feltham Evangelical Church?

These are not statements made to get me in to membership; they are statements which are to bind our lives moving forward. They are made before God and the assembled congregation. To make them is to determine to keep them.

So let us be a vow keeping people. Churches which are full of those who keep their word are places full of honour and respect. Trust is vital for any community to flourish. We should be doing our part to make sure that our church flourishes.