

# **Feltham Evangelical Church**

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

## **Newsletter: December 2021**

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## Calendar

### **w/c 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.

(Andrew Heron)

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning

Worship. (Philip Venables)

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 5.15.pm – Equip (Healing)

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> 9.45.am to 11.15.am -

Grace Tots

Tues 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible

Study (Acts 13:42-52)

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer

Meeting (on zoom)

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30.pm. - Ladies

Christmas Event

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 8.00.pm. - Ladies Meal

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

### **w/c 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Time to Study

(Philip Venables)

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning

Worship. (Philip Venables)

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 5.15.pm. - Evening Worship

(Dmitri Filchev)

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> 9.45.am to 11.15.am - Grace

Tots

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible

Study (Acts 14:1-20)

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

### **w/c 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.

(David Legg)

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning

Worship. (David Legg)

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 1.00.pm. - Fellowship

Lunch.

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> 9.45.am to 11.15.am - Grace

Tots

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> 6.15.pm. - Carol Singing in

town centre

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Gospel Partner

Prayer / Bible Study (Acts 14:21-28)

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

### **w/c 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper

(Andrew Heron)

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Indoor

Christmas Carol Service (Lloyd

Mushambadzi)

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 5.15.pm. - Outdoor

Christmas Carol Service – in church

car park (Philip Venables)

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom).

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible

Study (Neil Harcourt)

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer

Meeting (on zoom)

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Christmas Day

Service

### **w/c 26<sup>th</sup> December**

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.

(Josh Venables)

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning

Worship. (Philip Venables)

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 5.15.pm. - Evening

Worship. (Philip Venables)

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

(on zoom)

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible

Study (Acts 15:1-21)

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer

Meeting (on zoom)

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> 5.00.pm. - New Year's Eve

Party

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> (January) 9.00.pm. - Prayer

Meeting (on zoom)

## News

**Amanda Windsor** started a new job on November 11<sup>th</sup> working as a Rehab Assistant with Community Recovery Services covering the London Borough of Hounslow

**Philip Venables** is due to be preaching, via zoom, in a Pastors' conference based in Machillipatnam, India on November 29<sup>th</sup> (11.30.am) and 30<sup>th</sup>(10.00.am.) His messages are on “God is Love” and “God is Just”.

**Abraham Dodd** moved to a new home in Cranford on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lloyd Mushambadzi** is due to be preaching at Ealing Road Baptist Church on the morning of December 12<sup>th</sup>

## Notes

**Fellowship Lunch** On December 12<sup>th</sup> we are planning to have a “bring-and-share” fellowship meal.

**Carol Services** On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00.a.m (indoors) and 5.15.p.m. (outdoors in car park) we intend to hold our Christmas Carol Services. These give specific opportunities to invite family, friends and neighbours to hear the glorious gospel message of how Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Invitation cards should be available from December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Carol Singing** We intend to go carol singing in the town centre on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.15.p.m. (meeting outside Subway) And on the Butts Farm Estate on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.45.p.m. (meeting at Mark and Laura's)

**“Open House”** On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon from 3.00.p.m. Zach and Amy are having “Open House” and all connected with the church are invited. And on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6.30.p.m. Mark and Laura are similarly “Open House” and invite us for a time to be together and sing carols.

**Ladies Events** On 2<sup>nd</sup> December there is due to be a Ladies Christmas Special from 7.30.p.m. to 9.15.p.m. And then on December 4<sup>th</sup> there is due to be a Christmas Dinner Social from 7.00.p.m. For more information contact Amy (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Luna (4<sup>th</sup>).

**Grace Tots** on December 13<sup>th</sup> have their Christmas event. They are due to have a service with Andrew presenting the message of Christmas.

**Equip** on November 28<sup>th</sup> we plan to consider together the issue of healing.

## **Spiritual Notes    Worship Him**

**When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.** So reads the Word of God in Matthew 2:10-11.

We are reading here of the wise men who came from the East (see v1). They came seeking for the king of the Jews (see v2). What we need to focus upon, as we observe these men, is their determined attitude. They had one object to their mission and that was to find this One and worship Him. How they had come to discern the connection between his star and the fact that He is king of the Jews we are not told (see v2). But they had concluded this and they had responded by setting out to find this One who is Messiah; King of the Jews. In doing this they were very much in line with God's purpose to honour and glorify His Son.

And so they arrive in Jerusalem (see v1). They came to Jerusalem with all of its impressiveness. There was the temple; there was all the religious nobility of the chief priests and scribes; there was the ruler of the day, King Herod: there was so much to impress and take in. However, these men were no seekers of sights, treasures and curiosities they were seekers of the Christ. In their hearts was a longing for Him. Dare we say that they knew that none the religious personas, edifices or other regalia could bring satisfaction other than a worshipful contemplation of the Christ.

Others of course knew, but were not bothered. The religious experts, in the form of the Scribes and Pharisees knew the manual which gave the relevant information. But sadly that manual, which is the Word of God, did not shape their lives. We conclude this, because although they knew where the Christ was to be born, they would not shift themselves so as to go to him and bring worshipful contemplation (see vv4-6). Does the Word of God alter our conduct or is it just a book of information so we can answer difficult questions?

Oh and there is another man, a king and he also knew that the King of the Jews is to be born. But he is not interested in worshipping another king. He is rather just interested in preserving His own position as king (see vv 8,12 and 16). He sees a rival to be eliminated and not the Messiah King who is to be worshipped. All who see the arrival of Jesus in their lives as a threat to their welfare and position are like Herod. And like Herod, they are massacring their eternal souls whilst seeking the way of this world.

So how different it is with the wise men! They want the Christ and Him alone. The paraphernalia of religion does not get in the way. They want the Christ. In order to live and operate in this world we need the paraphernalia. As churches

we need to have arrangements and structures. We need a form for doing things. Some of that is derived from then proper understanding of scripture; some of it is derived so that we can operate in an orderly fashion. The paraphernalia is necessary, but it is not the focus. The focus is the Christ. He alone must be. When we are diverted from a focus on Him we fail.

So they persist and they get to the Christ. They find Him who is born King of the Jews. Oh and they see His mother. No thought, though, of her being at all the special one to be worshipped. Rather quite simply it is Him whom they worship (see v11). And to Him they give their precious gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh as they pour out their devotion to Him.

And so what of us? At this Christmastime, and indeed at any time, will we examine ourselves to consider whether the Christ is central to everything in our lives and in our church. This can be determined by analysing our conversation. How much do we speak of Him. The conversation of these wise men was centred on one person. Since knowledge of Him had been supernaturally brought to them He was their one desire. So much so that they left home and headed to Jerusalem. They put themselves out so very significantly because they just wanted to see Him and worship Him. So we ask how much does our desire to know and worship Jesus impact our lives?