

# Feltham Evangelical Church

*A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith  
Newsletter January 2007*

## Calendar

### w/c 31<sup>st</sup> December

31st 11.00.a.m J Long  
31st 6.30.p.m. A Osgood  
3rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study (P Symes)  
5th 9.30.a.m. Coffee Morning

### w/c 7<sup>th</sup> January

7th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (P Venables)  
7th 11.00.a.m P Venables ((refreshments afterwards)  
8th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting  
8th 8.30.p.m. Leadership Meeting  
9th 10.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
9th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
10th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
11th 7.30.p.m Church Members Meeting.  
12th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning  
12th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting  
13th 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution  
13th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (B Edwards)

### w/c 14<sup>th</sup> January

14th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (P Venables)  
14th 11.00.a.m P Davies  
14th 1.p.m. Lunch  
14th 2.p.m. P Davies  
16th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
17th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
19th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

### w/c 21<sup>st</sup> January

21st 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise  
21st 11.00.a.m P Venables (Lord's Supper)  
23rd 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
24th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
26th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

### w/c 28<sup>th</sup> January

28th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (P Venables)  
28th 11.00.a.m P Venables  
30th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
31st 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
2nd (Feb) 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

## News

Ruth Inglis had a minor stroke on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We thank God that she appears to be regaining strength.

May Lin Venables is being monitored as regards to her kidney problem. The situation is not critical at the moment. She is due to have a scan on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Miss Breen was taken ill on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and has had to be admitted to Kingfisher Ward at St Peter's Hospital. We trust her into the LORD'S hands at this time of uncertainty

## Notes

Change to Service Times. New arrangements for the services become effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January. Accordingly please follow the calendar carefully so you are fully aware of the new schedule.

Feltham Bible Focus As part of the new arrangements we plan to have a Saturday evening preaching meeting on every second Saturday of the month. The first of these is due to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> January when Brian Edwards, who was formerly pastor of Hook Evangelical Church, is due to be preaching.

Prayer A new year brings fresh opportunities and fresh challenges. As a church we seek, in and through all things, to move ahead for the LORD'S glory. To this end we must pray. So it is good that we can start the year with a week of prayer and therefore in the week beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> January we have extra prayer meetings arranged. If you can be present at these meetings then that would be good. If you are not able to be present then please pray wherever you are. Let us make it a special week to commit all to the LORD.

9.30.a.m. Service On most Sundays this service will be focused around the Lord's Supper as we remember our LORD Jesus in communion together. However, on the third Sunday of the month it will provide an opportunity to pray to the LORD and praise Him for His goodness and grace.

Paul Davies of the Albanian Evangelical Mission is due to be with us on January 14<sup>th</sup>. On that day we will be having lunch together and a service in the afternoon at 2.00.p.m. The lunch will be on a bring-and-share basis. In the afternoon Paul will tell us something of the work of the mission and God's working in Albania.

Church Members Meeting is due to take place on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Pray the LORD'S blessing upon this time when the church members can come together in fellowship to consider the issues bearing upon the church.

Newspapers Evangelical Times and Evangelical Now are available through the church. If you would like to subscribe then please contact Sheila for Evangelicals Now and Philip for Evangelical Times.

## Spiritual Notes The LORD'S Day

The changes to our schedule on a Sunday give us an opportunity to consider what the Lord's Day is and how we should use it.

It is established according to God's purposes in creation That there should be a day of rest. In giving the ten commandments God says **six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the**

**Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work** (Ex 20:9-10a). However, in establishing this command he goes back to the first week of history and says **for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.** A day of rest each week is necessary for the well-being of mankind. So the LORD Himself says that **The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.**

In the Old Testament the day of rest was on the Saturday. However, after the resurrection of Jesus and the birth of the church the people of God started to use the Sunday called the Lord's Day by John in Rev 1:10 as their special day. This day was, after all, the day of our Lord's resurrection. Christianity is a religion of the "new start" and thus it is appropriate that we celebrate the basis of this "new start"; the resurrection of our LORD. It is worthy of note, as well, that every appearance of our Saviour after He arose, was on the first day of the week. Moreover, when we see the emerging practice of the church we see them treating the first day of the week as their special day (see Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor 16:2).

The principle then is established of having one day of rest every week. However, the question is then raised about how we should use this day.

Put quite simply the Lord's Day is to be a day for the LORD. It may be countered that all days should be for Him. No doubt that is true, but the first day of the week is to be specially for Him. In that context the exhortation from Isaiah 58:13-14a. should be heeded **If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD.** The day then should be a day for rest, refreshment and worship. And in all these things we are led to remember all of God's goodness to us.

At this point the response may come "surely we have to do some things on a Sunday!". To consider this we may helpfully look at the activities which the LORD saw as being good for the sabbath. Let us look at three passages in Luke:

- In 6:1-5 the LORD gave approval to works of *necessity* when he did not reprove the disciples for obtaining food on the sabbath
- In 6:6-16 he gave approval to works of *kindness* when he healed the man who had a withered right hand
- In 14:1-6 he gave approval to works of *emergency* when he healed the man who had dropsy.

The day then is to be a day for the LORD, when we refresh ourselves by focusing on His goodness and grace. And as we are recharged in the LORD we can happily glorify His Name with works of necessity, kindness and emergency.

But what does all this mean in the nitty-gritty of life? The danger comes at this point that we start to make rules and regulations about what activities we should or should not be doing. However, we should make sure that we make the Lord's Day special and for the LORD. So to that end we must seek to be in church to worship God. Why not make a point of coming to both morning services and use the occasions as times of refreshment as we worship our great and glorious God.

For now we, presently, have no evening service so what are we to do with the rest of the day? Why not spend time with others from the church by inviting them over for a meal? Make it a time as well when you can be together as a family. Have a time of prayer and bible study at home as a family and/or with others who can be helped spiritually. Life is busy and sometimes we neglect to spend time together as families; let us use the Lord's day to that end.

Also in facilitating a better enjoyment of the Lord's Day, as a suggestion, why not have one day a week with no newspapers, TV or Internet? Try it and see if it does you good!

In all these things it is of course to be remembered that the LORD knows all our circumstances. Some have to work on a Lord's Day. The LORD knows this. But that should not lead to us being casual in our attitude. We should do as much as we can to get the benefit of Sunday for our whole beings, physically and spiritually.

As we change the arrangements of our services on the LORD'S Day let us seize the opportunity to follow the call of Isaiah to make the Lord's Day a delight (see Is. 58:13b). And in keeping the LORD'S (fourth) commandment to have a day specially for Him let us remember that **His commandments are not burdensome** (1 John 5:3b). Rather in keeping them we have the means whereby we please our Father because His commandments reveal what pleases Him.