

# Feltham Evangelical Church Newsletter: June 2009

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

## Calendar

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

31st Lord's Supper  
31st Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
31st 11:15.a.m. Sunday School  
2nd 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
3rd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
5th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"  
6th 10.30.a.m Open Air

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

7th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
8th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables); refreshments afterwards  
8th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
9th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
9th 5:45.p.m. Lighthouse  
10th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
12th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"  
13th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Neil Richardson; Is the Bible relevant?)

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

14th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Paul Davies)  
14th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Paul Davies)

14th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
14th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch  
14th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Paul Davies)  
16th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
17th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study (Malcolm Evans)  
19th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

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

21st 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise  
21st 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Tim Whitton) including Lord's Supper  
21st 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
23rd 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
24th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
26th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"

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

28th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Peter Court)  
28th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
28th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
30th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
1st (July) 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
3rd 9.30.a.m. Open House  
4th 10.30.a.m. Open Air

## News

Daniella Lee moved to a new home in Chertsey on May 29th.

Trish Howard's mother-in-law passed away on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Let us support Trish and the family during this time of loss.

Tom and Diana Asiedu have now formally committed themselves to be members of the church. We trust God's great blessing upon them in the fellowship and trust that they will be mightily used for God's glory in the church.

## Notes

Clear-out On the morning of June 11<sup>th</sup> we plan to seek to clear out from the church building some of the accumulated stuff/junk which is no longer needed. Come and help if you can. We are due to start at 9.00.a.m.

Feltham Bible Focus This month on June 9th, Neil Richardson is due to be preaching on the subject "Is the Bible Relevant?" Come along to hear God's Word and enjoy fellowship with others from different churches.

Fellowship Lunch Paul Davies from the Albanian Evangelical Mission is due to be with us on June 14<sup>th</sup>. On that day we plan to have a fellowship lunch together. This is to be on a bring-and-share basis. Please note that in the afternoon Mr Davies is due to speak about the work of the Mission.

Child Protection Policy Please note that the church has a copy of this in place in order to provide for the best welfare of children and the church. Please see Trish if you desire to see a copy.

Fellowship Picnic On June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1.00.p.m. we are invited by the Christians at Christ Church, Teddington to join them for a picnic in Bushy Park. Parking is on Park Road, Teddington. The picnic is located just inside Teddington Gate. Please see Philip for more information.

## Spiritual Notes *What's the problem with Easter and Christmas?*

The asking of such a question may shock many of us. We think that Christmas and Easter are our key Christian festivals and so there can surely be no problem with them. But is it all so straight-forward? Can our acknowledgment of Christmas and Easter actually be harmful to our living for Christ?

Let us immediately go to the heart of the issue. And the heart of the issue is that the birth, death and resurrection of our LORD are at the very heart of our faith. Without them we have no faith. So you say isn't it great that we have Christmas and Easter to mark these monumental events? The answer to that is probably "yes" and "no".

### **What are they good for?**

"Yes" it is because the situating of these events in our calendar necessitates us having to "trip over" the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. We are therefore forced to be aware of how major these matters are. Every occurrence of Christmas declares to us that **the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world** (1 John 4:14b). Every Good Friday tells us how **Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God** (1 Peter 3:18). And as Easter Sunday comes we rejoice in the great fact that **He was raised to life for our justification** (Rom. 4:25b).

These "feasts" in our calendar also give us an window of opportunity to mention to people outside the church that the coming of Christ and His dying for our sins are major matters for them to consider in their lives. Let us be diligent in seeking these evangelistic opportunities.

### **Why are they no good?**

On the other hand we can say "no" because we should be "tripping over" these events every day and in particular on every Lord's Day. So the danger is that we think of Christmas as our "big time" to remember the incarnation and Easter is the "big time" for the cross and the empty tomb. We give lots of attention to these events at these times. And then when they are over they slip from our minds.

If this is the case it is an appalling situation. And if this is the case it is causing a big problem as regards to our living for Christ. If we can be so bold, we can carefully say that every day is Christmas Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We live for a Saviour who came, lived, died and rose again. If we spend even just one day minimizing these issues then we have "lost the plot" as regards to living for Christ.

Overall then perhaps we can say for ourselves as believers that we can use Easter and Christmas for God's glory, but certainly should not rely upon these feasts for the prompting and maintaining of our faith.

### **Why do we not need these feasts?**

At this point the question might be raised about how God gave feasts in the Old Testament. In this realm we most particularly remember the Feasts of Jehovah in Leviticus 23. If the believers then had their "church calendar" why should we not have one as well? In answer to that it must be stated that we now live in a different age. This is now the age of the Spirit when the Spirit indwells believers. The change which took place on the Day of Pentecost (see Acts 2) is revealed by our Lord when He said to His disciples, of the Holy Spirit, **He lives with you and will be in you** (John 14:17b). Jeremiah states the difference when he says: **"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest"** (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

Accordingly, we do not need the outward prompts from a structured calendar to remind us of God's great workings. Rather we have things upon our hearts written by the Holy Spirit to continually remind us of God's great workings. Therefore, we have no need of Christmas or Easter or any other festivals.

This point is also established by the silence of scripture as regards to the celebrating Christmas and Easter. We search the scriptures in vain to find any statute which directs us to have Christmas and Easter or any other festival in the church calendar.

So let us use Christmas and Easter for the bringing of the reality of the Christian faith before those around us. They can also be used to focus us on the key issues of the faith. However, let us never rely upon them for the building of our faith. And as we unpack these things into our lives perhaps we can think once-and-for-all of ridding ourselves of restricting our singing of certain hymns to Christmas and Easter. Surely, the great truths expressed in Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Once on Royal David's City etc are too wonderful to be restricted just to a fortnight each year!