

# **Feltham Evangelical Church**

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

## **Newsletter: April 2024**

Feltham Evangelical Church, Manor Lane, Feltham TW13 4JQ

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# Calendar

## w/c 31st March

Sun 31st 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 31st 10.20.am. - Grace Kids (Rachel and Yvonne)  
Sun 31st 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)  
Tues 2nd 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Wed 3rd 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study. (Jeremiah 38-40)  
Thurs 4th 6.30 am. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Fri 5th 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 5th 10.00.am to noon - The Way Cafe  
Sat 6th 10.30.am - Evangelism  
Sat 6th 9:00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)

## w/c 7th April

Sun 7th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Jon Thorp)  
Sun 7th 10.20.am. - Grace Kids (Zach and Laura)  
Sun 7th 11.00.am. - Morning Service. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 7th 5.15.pm. - Together  
Mon 8th 9.45.am. to 11.15am - Grace Tots  
Tues 9th 9.30am - Prayer Meeting. (zoom)  
Wed 10th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study (Jeremiah 51)  
Thurs 11th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Fri 12th 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 12th 10.00.am to noon - The Way Cafe

Thurs 18th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Thurs 18th 7.30.pm. - Prayer meeting  
Fri 19th 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 19th 10.00.am to noon - The Way Cafe  
Fri 19th 7.30.pm. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Sat 20th 8.30.am. - Ladies Breakfast  
Sat 20th 10.30.am - Evangelism  
Sat 20th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)

## w/c 21st April

Sun 21st 9.30.am. - Time to Study. (The Church as a Light)  
Sun 21st 10.20.am. - Grace Kids (Andrew and Yvonne)  
Sun 21st 11.00.am. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 21st 5.15.pm. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
Mon 22nd 9.45.am to 11.15am - Grace Tots  
Tues 23rd 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Wed 24th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study (Ezekial 16)  
Thurs 25th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)  
Fri 26th 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 26th 10.00.am to noon - The Way Cafe  
Sat 27th 10.30.am - Evangelism  
Sat 27th 9.00.pm. - Prayer

Sat 13th 10.30.am - Evangelism  
Sat 13th 9.00.pm. - Prayer  
Meeting (zoom)

**w/c 14th April**

Sun 14th 9.30.am. - Lord's  
Supper. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 14th 11.00.am. - Morning  
Worship. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 14th 1.00.pm - Fellowship  
Lunch  
Sun 14th 3.00.pm. - Prayer  
Meeting  
Mon 15th 9.45.am. to 11.15am  
- Grace Tots  
Mon 16th 7.30.pm. - Prayer  
Meeting  
Tues 16th 9.30.am. - Prayer  
Meeting (zoom)  
Wed 17th 7.30.pm. - Gospel  
Partner Prayer / Bible Study  
(Lamentations 5)

Meeting (zoom)

**w/c 28th April**

Sun 28th 9.30.am. - Lord's  
Supper. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 28th 10.20.am. - Grace  
Kids (Rachel and Amy)  
Sun 28th 11.00.am. - Morning  
Worship (Philip Venables)  
Sun 28th 5.15.pm. - Equip  
(Why We Are Not Catholic)  
Mon 29th 9.45.am. to 11.15.am  
- Grace Tots  
Tues 30th 9.30.am. - Prayer  
Meeting (zoom)  
Wed 1st (May) 7.30.pm. -  
Prayer / Bible Study (Ezekiel 23)  
Thurs 2nd 6.30 am. - Prayer  
Meeting (zoom)  
Fri 3rd 9.15.am. - Prayer  
Meeting  
Fri 3rd 10.00.am to noon - The  
Way Cafe  
Sat 4th 10.30.am - Evangelism  
Sat 4th 9:00.pm. - Prayer  
Meeting (zoom)

## News

**Andrew Heron** is due to be preaching at Berrymede Evangelical Church on the morning of April 28th.

## Notes

**Week of Prayer** This is due to be during the week commencing on April 14th. As the clocks change and we move towards summer we need 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. We want to use this week to commit all the people and all the activities of the church to the Lord for the months ahead. We want to be bound together in the Lord, knowing Him in all the future for the church.

**Ladies Breakfast** On 20th April Rachel is due to be leading a study on Phillipians 4:8.

**Fellowship Lunch** On Sunday 14th April we intend to have a bring-and-share fellowship lunch together.

**Online Presence** Please find us online as follows:

Our website is at <http://www.felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk/fec/>

Our **Facebook** page is at

<https://www.facebook.com/felthamevangelicalchurch>

On **Instagram** at <https://www.instagram.com/felthamevangelicalchurch/>

Our **YouTube** channel is at

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyMaXdM1o0VPyhNAKn\\_ZEPw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyMaXdM1o0VPyhNAKn_ZEPw)

**Zoom** link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88986370463pwd=MjdwdHZwZTB6L29VV1VFUVBVWkRBZz09#success>

**Philip's YouTube** channel is

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFgevGfPSOeIZ5\\_uq2PR\\_Mw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFgevGfPSOeIZ5_uq2PR_Mw)

**Philip's personal blog** is <https://venabling.wordpress.com/>

**Baby Thanksgiving** On April 13th at 4.30.pm. We are due to have a service to give thanks to the Lord for the arrival of Leo Alessandro Madrid Gonzalez and Carlos Mauricio Andres Bernabé López. All are welcome.

**Equip** Sunday 28th April we intend to consider why we are not Catholic.

**Church Members Meeting** On 25th April we have our Church Members Annual General Meeting. Pray for this time as the church members enjoy fellowship together.

## **Spiritual Notes** Good Stuff / Bad Stuff

In Hebrews 11:35 there's a shocking transition in the middle of the verse. Faith being a means by which we experience good things in our lives is suddenly shifted to be the means by which we receive bad things into our lives.

Hebrews 11 is a great chapter of faith. Up to v31 the acts in faith of various great individuals such as Abraham, Enoch, Noah and Moses are portrayed. Then in vv32-38 a more general list is given of what happened through faith.

As we look at vv32-38 we are reminded of the statements of Job to his wife. **Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips (Job 2:9-10).** This statement shocks us because we tend to think that God should only give us good things.

There is a problem with our thinking here. We tend towards thinking that we are decent people who deserve good things from God because he should reward our decentness. So when we are happy when we read in vv33-35a about people **“Who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection.”** When we see such statements we tend to nod along and say that is how it should be.

Yet when we receive good things from God we should probe deeper. Yes we rejoice in all the Lord's kind working towards us, but we need to remember what faith is instrumental in doing. The purpose of our Lord in giving us faith, which is our trust in Him, is that we experience the knowledge of Himself as our God. Faith's primary purpose is to know God and not to get from God.

The knowledge of God can come when all is going well, but also when all is going badly. So from vv35b-38 we read of a catalogue of bad things that happened to those who lived by faith. Now if you are a Christian because you expect God to always be giving you good things that you like, then vv35b-38 will give you a rude awakening. The problem though, is not with what He gives you, but rather with what you have been led to expect.

We have to realize that God is not working all things so as we have good things, but rather working all for our good. The ultimate good is that we would be growing in Him and knowing Him. And very often this ultimate good is best worked out through bad things being in our lives.

Our salvation depends upon this being true, because the ultimate man of faith, our Lord Jesus went through incredibly bad things that we might enter into the incredible good of knowing God. The badness of the cross is unfathomable and similarly unfathomable are the blessings that come to us through His cross.

As the world looked at these people of faith they saw them as of no account and happily afflicted and mistreated them (see v37b). But the Lord's view is the

complete reverse. He says that they were those **of whom the world was not worthy**. Leon Morris writes this *“The author appeals to the deep realities not apparent on the surface of things. The despised and ill-treated group of servants of God were of greater value than all the rest of humanity put together.”* Of course this is not surprising because we follow a Saviour who was **despised and rejected by men** (Is. 53:3a).

So we must go on by faith and encourage each other to do so. It is the best way; it is God’s way. Whether good or bad stuff comes into our lives as a result is not the big issue. Knowing God and being for Him is the big issue.

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