

# Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: December 2024*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

## Calendar

### w/c 24<sup>th</sup> November

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper. (Andrew Heron)  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 10.20.am. - Grace Kids (Rachel and Laura)  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 10.20.am. - Grace Youth (Philip and Olu)  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 5.15.pm. - Equip (Me and My Phone!)  
Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study (1Thess. 1-2)  
Thu 28<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00.am. to midday - The Way Cafe  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 9.00. to 12.15.pm.. - "A Praying Life" Seminar.  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

### w/c 1<sup>st</sup> December

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper. (Colin Millar)  
Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10.20.am. - Grace Kids (Andrew and Yvonne)  
Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10.20.am. - Grace Youth (Mark and Natalia)  
Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship. (Colin Millar)  
Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 5.15.pm. - Together  
Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Wed 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study (Hebrews 10)  
Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00.am. to midday - The Way Cafe  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Evangelism  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

### w/c 8<sup>th</sup> December

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper. (Jon Thorp)  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 1.00.pm. - Fellowship Lunch.  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study (Andrew Heron)  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00.am. to midday - The Way Cafe

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Evangelism  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

### w/c 15<sup>th</sup> December

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Time to Study (Numbers)  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 10.20.am. - Grace Kids (Rachel and Laura)  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 10.20.am. - Grace Youth (Mark and May Lin)  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 5.15.pm. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
Tues 17<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom).  
Wed 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Gospel Partner Prayer / Bible Study (2 John)  
Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00.am. to midday - The Way Cafe  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 8.30.am. - Breakfast for all.  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30.am. - Evangelism  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (zoom)

### w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)  
Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 5.15.pm. - Carol Service  
Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Wed 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Christmas Day Service  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Evangelism  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

### w/c 29<sup>th</sup> December

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper. (Nathanael Evans)  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship. (Nathanael Evans)  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> 6.00.pm to 9.00.pm. - Open House at Mark and Laura's  
Tues 31<sup>st</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Tues 31<sup>st</sup> 5.00.pm.to 8.30.pm - New Years Eve Party  
Wed 1<sup>st</sup> (Jan) 5.00.pm. - Baptism Service  
Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Evangelism  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

## Notes

**Fellowship Lunch** On December 8<sup>th</sup> we are planning to have a "bring-and-share" fellowship meal.

**Carol Singing** We intend to be carol singing:

- at the Reach Academy Christmas Market on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> (meet at church at 2.30.pm.)
- in the town centre on Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.00.pm. (meet outside Subway).

**Christmas 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.

- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00.am.: Morning Worship (Incarnation)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.00.am to midday: The Way Cafe Christmas Special
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11.00.am.: Morning Worship (Saviour).
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 5:15.pm.: Carol Service.
- Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30.am.: Christmas Day Service.

**Prayer Seminar** On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 9.00.am. to 12.15.pm.we are hosting a "A Praying Life" seminar. Colin Millar from seeJesus ministries (<https://seejesus.net/>) is due to be with us for this. All are welcome to attend.

**The Way Cafe** is due to have a Christmas Special on December 20<sup>th</sup> (10.00.am to midday).

**Christmas Lunch** After the service on Christmas Day, there is an invitation to share a Christmas lunch together. All connected with the church are welcome to join in this. So if you have nowhere else to go on Christmas Day, or simply want to join us, please feel free to get along. If you intend to stay you must inform May Lin by December 20<sup>th</sup> so that the relevant catering can be set in place.

**New Year's Eve** On December 31<sup>st</sup> we are due to have a "Church Family New Years Eve" party together. We plan to have some games, a concert, food and a time of worship and prayer. This is due to be between 5.00.pm and 8.30.pm.

**Gospel Social** On November 30<sup>th</sup> between 6.00.pm and 9.00.pm. at Amyand Park Chapel, all 20's, 30's and 40's are invited to a Gospel Social. Simon Arcscott from All Nations Church Ilford is due to be preaching on "Fear.....Holy and Unholy"

**Breakfast For All** On Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> we are due to have breakfast for all when all in the church can come together to share breakfast. This starts at 8.30.am.

**Equip** on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 5.15.pm. We plan to consider "Me and My Phone!". How can we use our smartphones in a godly way.

## News

**Philip Venables** is due to be interviewed on Voice of Islam radio on November 25<sup>th</sup> between 8.30.am and 9.00.am. Also on December 6<sup>th</sup> he is due to be speaking to a group of pastors and their wives at Machilipatnam Baptist Church (via zoom)

**Paula Kretowska-Olechno** is to be baptized on January 1<sup>st</sup> at 5.00.pm.

## Spiritual Notes He is Coming Again!

He came and He will come. We live in this in-between age, between the first and second comings of our Lord Jesus. Around us, people scoff and say it is a lot of nonsense. But we believe that He will come again. Christmas is upon us soon, and we are reminded that our Lord Jesus, in fulfilment of all the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, entered the world in the womb of Mary. We should always remember that the first coming of our Lord Jesus began with the conception in Mary's womb, not His birth. Scriptural promises and prophecies abound, as well, about His second coming. And these must be fulfilled. We read in 2 Peter 3:3-9 about the return of our Lord.

The world's present attitude to the second coming of our Lord Jesus is nothing new. Peter says in vv3-4a: **knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming?"** He then goes on to observe (v4) that the claim of the scoffers is that nothing has changed over the years. Since the beginning up until now, all is the same. There has been no intervention of the Lord. But Peter informs us in vv5-7 that that reasoning is incorrect. God has intervened through His Word. Through His word, He brought the world into being and cleansed that same world with a global flood.

The reasoning of a true believer is to be very different from that of an unbeliever, as Peter asserts in vv8-9. The first thing to be aware of is that the Lord is operating according to a different timescale. Our God creates time but does not exist within the constraints of time. He is eternal. So the expanding of time, a day to a thousand years, and the contracting of time, a thousand years to a day, is all within His scope. So, although we see that the Lord's coming has been long delayed, on the timescale of God, this is not so at all. When the Lord returns it will be exactly on time according to the programme of God

But the question must arise about why it is that the Lord has not yet come. In v9, Peter reveals this to us. The Lord's staying away is for salvation reasons. As we have said, He is not operating according to our time scale, but His staying away means that there is time for more people to come to know the Lord and His salvation.

Let us not think that this means the promise of the Lord that He will return has been annulled. Not at all. The Lord will return when the last lost sinner appointed to be born again and be part of the church has been saved.

Undergirding that is the heart of God. His heart is revealed in Ezekiel 33:11: **"Say to them, 'As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?'"** And again in our Lord as He lamented over Jerusalem: **"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"** (Matt. 23:37). Our God passionately desires the salvation of all. He longs that all would make room for repentance.

In order to make room for something in our homes, we need to be convinced that the new acquisition will benefit our homes. So, if I have a decent cooker and am offered a decrepit old cooker in its place, then I am unlikely to make room for it. But if I am offered a brand new one, I am likely to be only too willing to make room for the new one. And that is the idea here. People need to be convinced that repentance is something they must make room for.

And that all leads us on to our ministry in this age. If the Lord is only staying away so that people can come to repentance and be saved, then I must be thoughtful about what I am doing with my time. Am I binding in with this salvation project? Am I persuading people to make room for repentance? Am I laying before them the disastrous consequences of not coming to Christ? Am I praying and using my money to this end? Am I in a church that is given to this project?