



# Newsletter

MARCH 2016



**Following God to be a Kingdom-focused,  
missional church**

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# SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME

## **1 Peter – Introduction**

After several months at looking at personal growth (and more importantly, what prevents our personal growth) we are going to spend some time going through the first book of Peter. This book is an invaluable handbook for Christian living and promotes the foundations necessary for building lives of spiritual maturity. Peter's readers were geographically scattered and going through all kinds of challenges and persecution but they needed to be theologically grounded in good Christ-Like living. This compelling and practical letter focuses on holiness and living right, and Peter is clear about his purpose: to stimulate their faith, to assure them of the reliability of God's word, and to encourage them to stand fast in God's grace. Peter's assurance to those who belong to Christ is still a great encouragement today and reminds the readers of their heavenly citizenship and calls them to continue growing in their faith and hope in Christ – even through the trials.

This letter is one of the most hope-filled books in the New Testament and Its purpose is to encourage Christian converts living in the midst of a hostile society. It does this by emphasizing their new life and salvation in the risen Christ (who is their "living hope"), showing how they became heirs of the people of God described in the Old Testament, and helping them understand what it means to live faithfully among people who ridicule and harass them. Throughout this letter, Jesus Christ's life, and especially his suffering, is used as an example of how they are to understand and bear their sufferings as they seek to do God's will. The readers, and us today, are called to be holy in an unholy world – are we willing to stand against the norms of this world to stand up for what we are called to be in Christ?

## **6 March – 1 Peter 1:1-12 – Praise to God for a Living Hope**

When Peter wrote his letter, things were changing. In the beginning of the first century church, the government remained unconcerned about this new religious sect. As the church grew, the constrictions of the government increased. Peter is writing to a people who are finding it increasingly difficult to live their faith and even today it is not easy being a Christian, but we must find a way to live our faith without compromise.

## **13 March – 1 Peter 1:13-21 – Be Holy in All You Do (1)**

We can easily become complacent as Christians and believe that because God has done all that we need to be saved that we do not need to change – this is not what the bible teaches. Becoming more holy, becoming more Christ-Like should be the goal for all Christians. This is not to earn favour or our salvation,

but a natural response to turning away from our old life and into the new life that Christ brings us to.

### **20 March – 1 Peter 1:22-2:3 – Be Holy in All You Do (2)**

God wants us not to live blindly, following whatever notions of character and behaviour currently in vogue, but to think and live in light of who we really are. He tells the readers that God has a great interest in us and has given us new birth; we are no longer who we were, enslaved to our sin nature, but new people with a new relationship with our Creator.

### **27 March – 1 Peter 2:4-10 – The Living Stone and a Chosen People**

Peter had some marvellously good news to share with the readers - and with us! There are two basic things he says in this passage to help us discover our true identity: 1) we must be enveloped in Christ's identity, and 2) sometimes we need to back off long enough from our humdrum daily existence to realize that we're not just laying bricks. God is at work building a beautiful tabernacle and house and temple in us and through us.

## **WEDNESDAY CHURCH FAMILY EVENINGS**

These evenings are a mix of Bible study/ discussion, prayer and grow in faith plus time to just chill out together.

The evenings are open to anyone who wishes to come along, whether you would like to be part of small group learning, sharing and growing together, or just wonder what happens on Wednesday evenings. You are very welcome.

If there is a particular subject you would like to explore, please speak to Mick or Spero.

God bless, Mick

## **SOUP LUNCH**

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30 pm**



The cost is £2.50 for a bowl of delicious home-made soup, crusty bread and butter plus a cup of tea or coffee. All the proceeds the month will go to the British Heart Foundation whose vision is "a world in which people do not die prematurely or suffer from heart disease".

# Friendship Club

Monday, 7th March 7.30pm



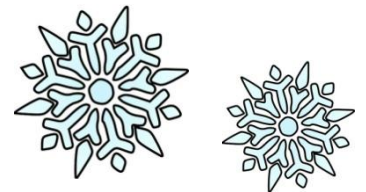
Our speaker this month is Mr Bob Ogle, author and journalist. His subject is the Great Storm of 1987 which many of you will remember.

I'm sure this will be an interesting evening and we look forward to welcoming visitors and new members. There is a small charge of £1.00 which helps to pay for our speakers.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are served at the end of the evening when there is time to socialise and make new friends.

If you would like details of future speakers please speak to Janet Self or Beryl Morten.

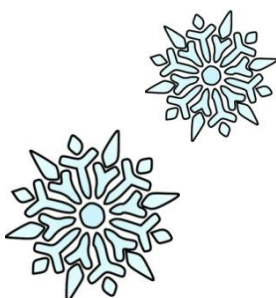
## Winter wonderland review



The night was a great success - it was lovely to see the members of the church enjoying the evening. The food that Sue had prepared was absolutely amazing, and was enjoyed by all. She worked hard to prepare the food for the evening, thank you Sue. The quiz that Freda had prepared was challenging but enjoyable! Then we had a quiz prepared by Spero which was great a flashback into the past with 60's, 70's 80's and 90's music.

A BIG thank you to those who helped prepare the evening and those who turned up.

Charlotte



## **POSSIBLE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May**

“Celebrating our Cultural Diversity” event for the church from 3 pm.

It is envisaged that people can come along dressed in traditional costume, perform, share food, etc, from their own culture. It would be good if there was something which the children could take part in – eg, telling a story in which the children could participate.

If you would like to be involved in organising or participating in this, contact Audrey.

### **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June**

We want to do something to reach out to the community to celebrate the Queen's Official Birthday. Mick will check to see if other local churches have anything planned. If you would like to be involved, speak to Mick.

### **Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July**

After the success of last year's event, Audrey will be organising another Jazz Concert.

### **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October**

There is a possibility that a Barn Dance could be combined with a real Harvest weekend at BBC.

## **NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2016**

All contributions to the newsletter are gratefully received but in order to give Marolin time to put all the material together and Charlotte time to print it, please honour the deadline, which for April will be Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Anything received after that date is unlikely to be included.



## **EVERGREEN UPDATE – The Clean Team**

Since April last year, our wonderful Clean Team volunteers (many of whom are members of this church) have helped to restore dignity and order to the lives of ten elderly individuals whose homes had fallen into neglect and chaos. Often this is the result of mental, emotional or physical illness, and even abuse, which has made it impossible for them to maintain their own homes. In such cases, there is a real sense of shame and embarrassment that they have ended up living in conditions that, in better times, they would have found appalling.

One lady had been in hospital for nearly a year recovering from a severe mental breakdown. Another was so embarrassed by the state of her home that she would not let repairmen in, much less her grandchildren. The work of the Clean Team enabled the former to resume living independently once again, and the latter to end her self-imposed isolation.

Restoring order and cleanliness to someone's home requires tact and diplomacy, and there are many practical arrangements that have to be made before the Clean Team can move in. Alternative accommodation sometimes has to be arranged with relatives or Social Services, risk assessments have to be carried out and discussions held with the individual involved to agree a plan of action. For hoarders, there is the delicate issue of disposing of things they have kept 'just in case' or for sentimental reasons, requiring some careful negotiation.

Finally, the Clean Team is able to move in and begin the work of undoing years of neglect. This may take a whole day or even a few days as rubbish is cleared, vermin exterminated, accumulated grime removed and the home made comfortable and safe again.

As a reward for their hard work, the Team have the pleasure of seeing the joy and relief on the faces of tenants or home owners when they come back to a home transformed. They also have the assurance that Evergreen's Home Support service will ensure that they do not lapse back into chaos.

We have had seven requests for the Clean Team since December and we could really use more volunteers. If you think you could help, please contact Pete at 01322 431765 or e-mail [pete@evergreencarebexley.org](mailto:pete@evergreencarebexley.org)

# AN INVITATION TO PRAYER

## 40 hours of prayer – 8th-10th April

Prayer is the breath of life of any church and for the past three years we have set aside a period of 40 hours for fasting and prayer, seeking God's guidance and blessing on our fellowship and the local community. There will be two such times of concentrated prayer this year, the first to be held in April starting 8 pm, Friday 8th through to 12 midday, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>.

The theme for the weekend is '**Rebuilding David's fallen tent**'.

Most areas of the church will be used for different aspects of prayer. There will be tables set up in the sports hall by different groups such as Street/School Pastors, Evergreen, H.O.T.S. and many others. This will give an opportunity for churches and individuals to find out more about different church based community projects running in Bexley and to pray for and "adopt" a group.

The weekend will be divided up into one hour slots.

The church will be open continuously during this time and we especially need people willing to commit to the night time periods. Please contact Pete or Mick if you are able to do an hour or two during the night time periods, or any time during the 40 hrs.

### **Correction to Church Directory**

McCarthy, Sue – new e-mail address is  
s.mccarthy317@btinternet.com

## MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10:00 am	Calligraphy
<b>Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup></b>	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
<b>Weds, 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10:00 am	Flower arranging
	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Kathleen Reeves
<b>Friday, 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' Club
<b>Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	10:00 am	Ladies Discipleship group (till 12:00)
<b>Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Mothering Sunday service & shared lunch
	6:30 pm	Communion
<b>Monday, 7<sup>th</sup></b>		Friendship Club – the Great Storm of 1987 – Bob Ogle
<b>Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup></b>	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
<b>Weds, 9<sup>th</sup></b>	12:30 pm	Soup lunch – proceeds to Heart Foundation
	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – members' afternoon
<b>Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
<b>Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
<b>Monday, 14<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Calligraphy
<b>Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
<b>Weds, 16<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & crochet lesson
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Music afternoon
<b>Friday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' Club
<b>Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
<b>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
<b>Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
<b>Weds, 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Dennis Robert
<b>Good Friday, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	???	HOTS and Stages of the Cross
<b>Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
<b>Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Easter Sunday morning worship service
<b>Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup></b>	7:15 pm	Zumba 'keep fit' class (till 8:15)
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Richard Payne