

Aiming to glorify God by calling and equipping people to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

Church Life is More Than Sunday

I am very grateful to God and to the congregation of EEFC for allowing me four months of sabbatical. It was a time for rest and refreshment, and I want to record my thanks to David, Nathan, Peter and the other elders who served the fellowship so faithfully while I was away.

The sabbatical gave me the opportunity to spend Sundays visiting other churches of various size and type. I enjoyed my experience at each one and benefited from sitting under God's Word. What I missed, however, was the closeness of fellowship and encouragement that is ours as a local church. It was a reminder to me that there is far more to church than attending a service on a Sunday.

When the Bible describes church it uses language of association and relationship. Words like family, body, and flock. Even when it uses the picture of a building, the image is of believers being like living stones built *together* into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood.

Faith in our Lord Jesus results in a whole new series of relationships with others who share the same faith; relationships which find their expression in the local church.

This is what I missed while I was away. I missed the Elders and Deacons' Sunday prayer meeting, the Tuesday prayer meeting, the House Group, the 3D Bible study. I missed catching up with folk at the door after services. I missed the mutual encouragement of the brothers and sisters the Lord has brought me into regular relationship with.

This is how it should be. Close fellowship is a gracious provision by

God for our good. That is why Hebrews 10:24-25 says – *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching.”*

Let's be watchful of ourselves and for each other. There are those who, for various reasons, are restricted in their involvement in church life. Let's consider active ways of encouraging them and making local church life real to them.

One last thing about our life together as a local church: Let us never forget that our relating to one another and our gathering together are an essential part of our witness together to the world. The way we love, support and care for each other is the way people will see that we are disciples of the Lord Jesus.

And as we gather for church on a Sunday, and for Bible study, prayer and outreach during the week we are proclaiming together that following and worshipping the Lord Jesus is more important to us than anything else.

When outsiders come among us we should be praying that God would speak to them in such a way that they “fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you.’” (1 Cor 14:25).

Jonathan Prime



Passion For Life

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Big Question Café and other activities as part of the Passion for Life week.

I'm grateful for all who took and used the survey forms. Thanks as well to those who made the Emmanuel Centre look so attractive; those who worked in the kitchen; all who provided the crockery, cakes and cookies. Thank you, as well, to everyone who prayed for the event.

Overall, there were many encouragements. We had good numbers at the Big Question Café and the other events and there were many good conversations.

As well as the Café, there were special events at Ladies Fellowship, Together, Coffee Bar, Bright Sparks, Girl Wiz Kidz, Mums and Tots and the Walking Group. There were also opportunities to do some door to door visitation around the Emmanuel Centre.

Jesus was honoured as the Gospel was clearly proclaimed to many and we were strengthened in our faith.

Please continue to pray for those who heard the talks, who had conversations with members of the Mission Team, took Luke's Gospels or DVDs, that they would remember what they heard and be challenged to respond. Let's also pray that we will all be encouraged to continue to tell friends, family, neighbours and colleagues about the Lord Jesus. Remember - Passion is for Life, not just for Easter.

David Williams



The Big Questions Café Talks

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD EXISTS?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE & IS THERE A HEAVEN?

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH INJUSTICE?

WHY ARE THERE NATURAL DISASTERS?

If you would like to listen again to a talk, give it to a friend or relative, you can download the talks from www.eefc.co.uk Or speak to Rodger or Ann Sewell in the foyer on a Sunday, or contact the church office on 020 8363 3354.