



EBC GRAPEVINE

Welcome to the March issue of “Grapevine”
Our way of letting you know what is going on each month.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The angel said to the woman. “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, he is risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
Matthew 28:5-6

SUNDAYS IN MARCH

3rd Spectrum All Age Worship
10th Morning Worship
17th Morning Worship with Communion
24th Palm Sunday
31st Easter Sunday Worship

WHO TO CONTACT

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MARCH

PRAYER FOCUS

LET US PRAY

- Giving thanks for this season of lent refreshing our lives with the knowledge that Jesus Christ died to give us abundant life. That knowledge of his death and resurrection will give us courage for today and hope for tomorrow.
- Praise God for the evidence of new life this springtime, with buds on trees and bulb shoots appearing, with longer daylight hours that offer more time to read and meditate on God's word.
- For a lasting peace to be accomplished in war-torn countries, particularly in Gaza and Ukraine and for the aid agencies at work in those traumatic and challenging conditions to harness the courage and skills required to provide appropriate help for the wounded, hungry, bereaved and traumatized victims.
- Thanking God for the successful Easter Experience held at EBC last year and that this year many more children will come to know the true meaning of Easter and the love Jesus has for them.
- Thinking about those who are standing for election as a deacon, that they will know God's blessing.
- For our minister Andy and family, and for all who organise, manage and work at our church that their love of Jesus will be evident to all who use our building

Welcome

A warm welcome to Kitty as she joins EBC as the Children's Worker. We are sure that she has great plans for the Children's Ministry and look forward to seeing Gods plans unfold.



This month we will be collecting Easter Eggs for the Foodbank. Please make sure they are in basket in reception by Tuesday 26th March so families have them in time for Easter Sunday.



Car Park

A gentle reminder that once spaces are full on a Sunday please refrain from double parking, especially next to the disabled spaces. Also, if you are parking during the week you must ask permission from David first. Please note that there is no parking available on a Tuesday as this is a particularly busy day. The ticketing system will soon be back so we do not want anyone to receive a penalty charge.

Congregational Letter

We will soon be meditating and celebrating the most remarkable event in the history of humanity.

Christmas and Easter, although separated by three or so months is really one event. The birth, ministry, death and resurrection of the second person of the Trinity. For Jesus to die, he had to be born and live.

Just like at Christmas, we will be reading and hearing the familiar Bible stories, this time Bible stories about the passion and resurrection. This is a wonderful time to again allow the gravity and power of what happened 2000 years ago to impact us and to be thankful to the Lord.

I would encourage you this Lent and Easter season to take time to slowly, meditatively and carefully read those amazing verses of Jesus' last week on earth; the great prayer of Jesus in John 17; the events of the Garden of Gethsemane; His arrest and presentation before Pilate; His death on the cross and the glorious resurrection morning!!

However, there is one event in the passion narrative that I have always found interesting.

It is found in John 19. Verses 19-21 say...

19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. 20 Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. 21 The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews".

Have you ever wondered WHY the Pharisees are so angry with the sign over Jesus' head? John's account is probably the full wording of the sign - *Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews*.

Why are the Pharisees SO upset by it?

What I am going share with you is conjecture, and not something that can be completely proved. But I think it is interesting and it shows that even on the cross, the Lord was witnessing to people of who He truly was.

I think the reason why the Pharisees were incensed at the sign was not what it claimed - they were OK for Jesus to claim he was king of the Jews, they even suggest to Pilate he change the sign to say he claimed to be the King of the Jews - they were angry for another reason.

The sign in Aramaic (remember it was written in Aramaic, Greek and Latin), would have been in four Hebrew words:

1. Yeshua
2. Nazareth of
3. King the /
4. Jews

The **first** letters of each word in the Aramaic are: *yod* (י) *hey* (ה) *vav* (ו) *hey* (ה)which spells Yahweh יהוה, (remember Hebrew reads right to left). Yahweh is the Jewish name for God. The Pharisees and the Jews believed that this name of God was so holy it could not be pronounced or spoken out - but right above Jesus as he dies was the letters of Yahweh - *yod, hey, vav, hey*.

Congregational Letter (continued)

I think this is probably why the Pharisees were so angry.

The proclamation to the world of who Jesus was and what he was doing was right there above Jesus' head as he died.

The celebration of Lent and Easter means that you and I are no longer held by the chains of the world's darkness and pain nor are we held by the cycle of sin and death. God asks us to walk with him even through the pain and the darkness of the situations we face in life. We are able to because Jesus pronounced just before he died that it was finished. It has been accomplished. The debt has been paid in full.

People can attack us - they can seek to do us harm - they may even appear to be winning but Easter declares that God's promises will always, without fail, prevail and he will protect and uphold each of his children forever!!

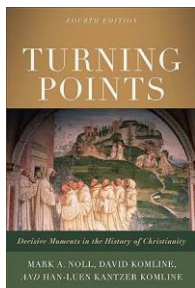
With my love and prayers



From the Pastor's Bookshelf

Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity

By Mark Noel



Over the past few months here at EBC we have had a small group studying a Church History Course and it has been a great time of discussion, discovery and learning.

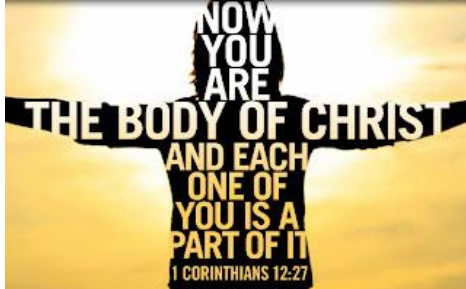
The study of Church History is a neglected thing in the Church. It is a huge topic with SO MUCH information, and often the vastness of topic makes it unappealing.

But in reality, all believers should know the major points of church history - and this book by Mark Noll helps us with this.

"Turning Points" focuses on the 12 major events through the history of the Church, starting at the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, and covering the early church, the monastic movement, the beginning of Christendom, the division between the eastern church and western church, to the reformation, the great awakening, the age of reason and into the modern day.

Noll is concise and yet thorough and easy to read. At the end of this book you will easily be able to see an overview of the history of the church and the major turning points which impacted each generation and you will also know how this has impacted us today.

WHAT'S ON



The AGM will be on Sunday 24th March immediately after the morning service.

We will be voting for new Deacons as well as saying thank you and goodbye to those stepping down.

Details of those standing for elections will be on the Notice Board from Tuesday 5th March.

Postal votes are accepted for those who are unable to attend the meeting, ballot papers are available from Lesley Spiers: lesleyspiers5@gmail.com.

Read the Bible Together

The read the Bible Together plan has started!!
If you would like to be a part of a group that meets monthly to discuss what you have read then please email Andy:
minister@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk.

Breakfast for Men..

..meets on a Saturday morning, once a month. Keep an eye on the noticeboard as dates will be advertised here. Invite to sign up will be sent via ChurchSuite.

If you have any questions, please see Graeme Allen or Mike Shennan.

3 March: Who we are in Christ

17 March: The Healthy Christian



SERMONS IN MARCH

STUDIES IN COLOSSIANS

10th: Colossians 1:1-14

17th: Colossians 1:15-29

24th: Colossians 2:1-10 – Tim McBryan will be preaching.

31st: Easter Sunday John 20:1-10