



# EBC GRAPEVINE

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

## SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

- 7<sup>th</sup> Spectrum All Age Worship
- 14<sup>th</sup> Morning Worship
- 21<sup>st</sup> Morning Worship with Communion
- 28<sup>th</sup> Morning Worship

## WHO TO CONTACT

### SENIOR MINISTER

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### CARETAKER

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# JANUARY

## **LET US PRAY**

- Praising God for his wonderful world and this amazing winter season that holds many wonders if we look past the cold weather and bare trees.
- Thanking God for taking us safely through the past year with its very happy yet sometimes sad or challenging times.
- Praising God that 'hitherto' he has been our strength and stay, guarding and guiding us through every difficulty with his unconditional love and care.
- Thinking about those who have found this year difficult, through illness, failed relationships or bereavement, that they will find comfort going forward and support from the church.
- Thinking also about those who are homeless in these winter months and pray that those in positions to help will find ways to take people of the streets this year to safety.
- Remembering people who are finding the increased cost of living difficult and that governments will be moved to provide practical help for those who need it.
- Thanking God for the charities that work with all areas of our community and who always need our help and support. Charities such as Bridge of Hope, CAP and Food banks.
- To find time for the regular study of God's word throughout the year, leading us to mirror the life of Jesus in meaningful ways to all who we encounter.
- For our Pastor Andy and all who help with its organization that EBC will continue to grow from strength to strength and be the light that is needed in our community.



## **PRAYER TREE**

We now have a prayer tree in the reception area. If you have any prayer requests, please write them on one of the cards provided, attach to the tree and someone will pray for you. You are also welcome to take one of the requests to pray over.

Please encourage others to use as well as this is a great way to reach the community of Enfield.

## **BRIDGE OF HOPE OFFERING**

EBC Giving Envelopes marked with a \* will be available next to the Offering Plates at the rear of the Church.

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please complete your details.

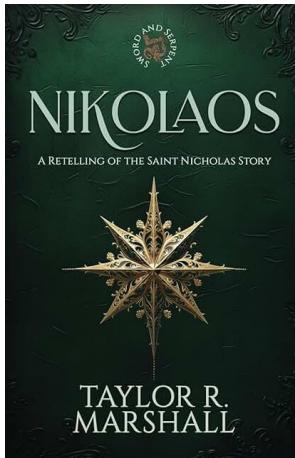
The last Sunday for donations will be 21<sup>st</sup> January.

## **HELP NEEDED**

Are you free on a Monday morning and able to help with reception? All you need is a smile and a warm welcome for the visitors to EBC.

If you are able, please email:  
[admin@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk).

## From the Pastors Bookshelf



### Nikolaos: A retelling of the Saint Nicholas Story

Taylor R Marshall

I am a huge fan off Taylor Marshall's trilogy The Sword and Serpent, The Tenth region of the Night and Storm, Fire and Blood, which are excellent and captivating novels for all ages, following the adventures of Jurian as he travels in the Roman Empire in AD 299. Dr. Marshall, a catholic theologian and blogger, manages to capture the intriguing religious atmosphere of the Roman Empire in the fourth century.

It is in the first book of this trilogy (The Sword and Serpent) that we are introduced to Nikolaos - a presbyter in Myra (modern day Turkey). He is a somewhat mysterious man who appears in the most unlikely and sometimes impossible places. This new book, Nikolaos: A Retelling of the Saint Nicholas Story, is set just before Nikolaos makes his first appearance in the Sword and Serpent. So this book could be regarded as a prequel.

There is a spiritual darkness which is coming over Myra and specifically on one family. Melitta is the oldest of three daughters of Dositheos, a once wealthy merchant who has fallen into difficult times. Melitta has noticed her father has changed, not least since he started to pray to a god he brought in the house. Dositheos is not a christian but Melitta and her sisters are. Nikolaos is confronted with the darkness that is threatening to overwhelm all that is good in Myra. Melitta is at a loss to know how to help her father who is changing into a man she cannot recognise, and on the verge of doing something unthinkable. All her efforts to try and solve the problem only lead to potential disaster. Melitta is a wonderful character that embodies how we often react to the problems we face in life - we try and fix things and when we try and fix things we often face moral dilemmas which can place us into spiritual peril. And yet we reason that if we do this small wrong we can solve the bigger problem.

This is another captivating story from Taylor Marshall. Nikolaos - the small, mysterious presbyter is faced with battling the darkness and trying to help his parishioners Melitta and her sisters as well as their father Dositheos. The 130 pages will fly by as you are drawn into the story. This is another book for all ages - whether you are reading it to your children or just enjoying the story telling of Taylor Marshall - this would make an excellent

## Congregational Letter

I have a hunch that one of the things that a lot of Christians will realise when they get to heaven is that they could have lived their lives with far less fear and worry. In other words, I think we will discover that for many of us we played the game of life far too safely. Where we thought we were in danger or in trouble; or when we were too scared to follow the Holy Spirit's leading, or when we thought that money, or a lack of money and resources was a barrier that stopped us from stepping out in faith to do what the Lord was saying to do, we will discover in heaven just how safe and how secure we actually were and that the problems, troubles or dangers we perceived by our natural eyes were in fact irrelevant and insignificant. Indeed, I think in heaven we will sadly realise that compared to incredible riches available to us, we were more concerned with filthy rags and we lived as spiritual paupers.

This is one of the prayers I want to pray this year - Lord, help me not to be a spiritual pauper!

One of the things I am constantly convicted by in my own life is my lack of complete abandonment to the Lord. I want this year to be a year where I / we begin to learn how to abandon myself / ourselves to His ways and His provisions both individually and as a church.

What does utter abandonment to the Lord look like? Read the lives of people like George Whitfield, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, William Booth, Corrie Ten Boom, E Stanley Jones, Gladys Aylward, Charles De Foucauld, C T Studd, Rees Howells, Hudson Taylor, Adoniram Judson and many, many others and you will have a wonderful glimpse of it. These men and women lived life without fear and utterly abandoned to the will of God. Their lives were not easy; some had tremendous challenges - but they trusted God with every ounce of their being. They lived loving God and not fearing the world.

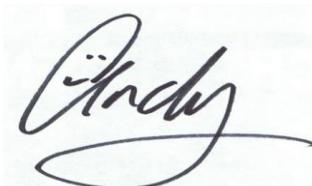
Of course the Apostle Paul was one of those whose whole life was lived from the place of utter abandonment to the Lord. His Epistles encouraged the believers to live life in utter abandonment for Jesus.

The reason Paul calls people to utter abandonment to Christ is that Paul KNEW a very important truth. He knew that what was available to us IN Christ, far outstripped the greatest wealth this world could offer us. This is what he exhorts in his letter to the Ephesians. He is exhorting the Ephesian Christians not to miss out on the heavenly treasures that are available to all believers in Christ. Heavenly treasures more precious than anything found in this world.

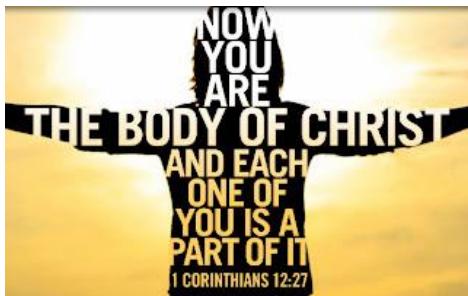
The tragedy is that too often we accept the world's lie that true treasures are found here and therefore we need to work hard HERE to receive them. This attitude makes us spiritual paupers. May we reject the world's lie. May we realise the world has absolutely nothing of value to offer us. May we this year grasp hold of the great treasures which God has already given us.

Happy New Year!!

With my love and prayers



# Whats On



## The next Church Meeting will be on Sunday 28 January in the Sanctuary.

It has been decided that using the sanctuary is the better option so on the Church Meeting dates there will be a shortened service - no more than 50 mins. There will then be a ten-minute break and regather at 11:30am, aiming for a finish between 12:30-1:00pm.

Members have the opportunity to put forward points for discussion, these need to be emailed to Andy: [minister@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk) by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

The agenda and minutes from the last meeting will be emailed prior to the meeting.

## Read the Bible Together

The read the Bible Together plan has started, leaflet attached to the email. If you would like to be a part of the group that meets monthly to discuss what you have read then please email Andy:

[minister@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk).

## Breakfast for Men....

...the next breakfast is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January invites have been emailed, so check your inbox and sign up if you are planning to attend.

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

## SERMONS IN JANUARY

7<sup>th</sup> January - Spectrum All Age Worship

14<sup>th</sup> January - Psalm 23/John 9:1-13, 28-38: The Lord is my Shepherd

21<sup>st</sup> January – 1 Kings 3:3-14/Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50: What is Wisdom

28<sup>th</sup> January – Matthew 9:35-10:15: God's call on your Life

## JayBee Beds

We have a number of foldout beds that are in good condition to give away.  
If you or anyone you know is interested, then please email David to arrange collection:  
[maintenance@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:maintenance@enfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk).



## Asaph Christian Trust Courses

Asaph are running a couple of courses, “Understanding Spiritual Gifts” and “Who is this Man” via Zoom in January.

**Further details are on the Notice Board or  
[www.asaphchristiantrust.org](http://www.asaphchristiantrust.org).**



### ITEMS NEEDED

Tinned veg/mixed beans/tomatoes/meat (chicken and pork)/fish/mixed beans, pasta sauce, rice tinned fruit/rice pudding/custard, longlife milk.