



EBC GRAPEVINE

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

My command is this: Love each other as I
have loved you. John 15:12
Dear friends, let us love one another, for love
comes from God. 1 John 4:8

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

4th Spectrum All Age Worship
11th Morning Worship
18th Morning Worship
25th Morning Worship with Communion

WHO TO CONTACT

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FEBRUARY

LET US PRAY

- For this Lenten Season as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus so that we can be freed from sin
- For our Church - especially those whom we know are ill or struggling. Pray for healing and strength from the Lord
- For the Bridge of Hope Team as they minister in Uganda
- For those who are thinking about running for the Diaconate that the Lord would make his will very clear
- For our Government: for the wisdom of the Lord to guide the Prime Minister and all government ministers and workers
- That we show the love of Jesus through our actions to others. Help us to love all, especially the ones that are hard to love or have caused us pain
- For an end to knife crime and comfort to those who have lost loved ones, particularly the families of those in Enfield recently
- Giving thanks for all we are blessed with and remembering those who are struggling with the things we can take for granted

DEACONS ELECTIONS

It is that time of year when we start talking Deacons elections. Lesley Spiers has served for six years so will have to step down. Pete Desmond has served for three years and has decided not to stand again. Tim McBryan has had to step down due to his new role as Youth Worker and Pastoral Assistant. Michelle Briers will be standing down after five years. This will leave six Deacons in places with six vacancies for new Deacons.

Do think about your contribution to this important area of our church as we consider God's next steps for EBC. Please see the attached document for more information for the procedure for Deacon nomination and a description as to what the role involves. The closing date is Sunday 3rd March at 12pm & voting will take place at the AGM on 24th March. Andy & the Deacons encourage church members to pray and consider if God is calling you to serve on the Diaconate.

BRIDGE OF HOPE OFFERING

The total of our Christmas Special Offering for Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry amounted to £597.50 including gift aid of £102.50. Thank you to all who contributed.

From the Pastors Bookshelf

In the church calendar the season of Lent begins on February 14th.

The early church after Jesus ascended into heaven remembered the time between the day of his crucifixion and his resurrection with prayer and fasting.

What we would describe as Lent today had its origins around 900 years after Jesus in the medieval church. It was agreed that a time of fasting, seeking forgiveness and spiritual disciplines should be enacted lasting 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. As one writer has said "The significance of the time period was that immediately before he began his years of travelling and teaching, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert reflecting on the future of his life."

Spending a season meditating, focusing and contemplating the cross and what it accomplished can be very fruitful. Also it can be used to take a spiritual inventory of where we are with the Lord and what is going in our lives.

There are two very good books which you can use as a devotional reading in this season which focuses on the cross.

Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter



This is a collection of writings and poems from various writers such as Thomas Merton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thomas A Kempis, GK Chesterton, Jurgen Moltmann, Watchman Nee, Karl Barth, Philip Yancy, NT Wright and many, many more. These devotionals vary in length and style and theological approach which makes it very rich and challenging.

To seek and To Save: Daily Reflections on the Road to the Cross by Sinclair Ferguson



Ferguson is a superb writer who is clear and very applicational. Each day has a reflection and a space for your response. Ferguson takes you through the Gospel of Luke from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Again, you will find his reflection rich and challenging at the same time.

Congregational Letter

In 2017 Scientific American Mind magazine had an article entitled “Can I Learn to Think More Rationally?” By Daniel Willingham, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia.

For some Christians thinking rationally is very important - and I agree that Christians should definitely NOT be irrational in their thinking. But the thing is too much of the church now sees the supernatural power of God AS irrational because we have been trained to think as the world thinks.

In the article Daniel Willingham defined rational thinking as: “encompassing our ability to draw justifiable conclusions from data, rules and logic.”

Now, this is definition is fine...for a non believer in God. But for a christian this definition causes a few problems. It's a problem because God at times does not think rationally. There are MANY boxes that we as a church and the culture try and squeeze God into, and one of them is rational thinking.

God does not think or act rationally because God acts according to His will.

Let's take one example.

In the book of Joshua Israel comes to the city of Jericho. Now Israel knows that they are to attack this city. What would rational thinking do in this situation? Siege tactics? Frontal assault? Stealth attack? What would the greatest generals of history such as Alexander the Great or Nebuchadnezzar or Cyrus have done to attack Jericho? What about the great modern generals of the World War II, Eisenhower and Montgomery? Or about the current commander of the US army Charles Hamilton - how would he attack a city like Jericho. I doubt that a rational thinking general would decide to march around the city once a day for six days and then on the seventh day march around the city seven times and then blow trumpets and shout very loudly so the walls would fall down.

Or what about a baby being born to a woman in her 90's (Sarah and Abraham)? Or a virgin birth? Or the resurrection from the dead? Or the healing a blind man?

The thing is God constantly acts outside the box of our rational thinking. Again, I am not saying we should think irrationally - but we MUST as Christians be willing to do things which rub against what the world defines as rational thinking because our God is so much greater than our thinking - as Paul says - “the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom” (1 Cor 1:25). Think about that: all the greatest modern philosophers, scientists, engineers, doctors, Nobel prize winners are utter idiots compared to God.

Who would you rather listen to and follow? Rational thinking or the living God of the Universe.

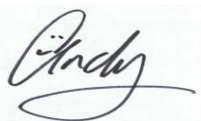
This is why people have given up careers, fortunes, family, to serve God.

For us as believers to follow the living God even against the rationality of our culture requires that we live IN the power of the Holy Spirit. Only then will we be able to have the mind of Christ. Only then will we be able to allow God to move and act and speak outside the rational box that the world has attempted to squeeze God into.

Do you want to think and live rationally - or do you want to think and live in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Beware - if you choose God you may find yourself having to choose between what the world thinks is good, safe and right and what God wants you to do which looks bad, dangerous and even stupid.

Love and prayers

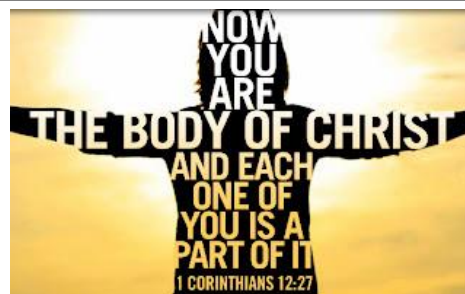


WHAT'S ON

ABLAZE FAMILY LUNCH

Sunday 11 Feb

Bring and Share lunch for families with children in Ablaze. Please sign up via ChurchSuite or see Clare or Tim.



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.

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 notice board 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.



4 Feb: 7 Things that Happen When you are Saved

18 Feb: How to Study the Bible

SERMONS IN FEBRUARY

11th February - God's Sovereignty: Genesis 27:5-13 and Genesis 40:1-22

18th February - Doing Church: 2 Kings 22:8-13 and Acts 2:42-47

25th February – Faith: Matthew 16:13-20 and Romans 4:16-25