

# FAITH MATTERS

## Spring is nearly here

Spring is just around the corner. Snowdrops have appeared, daffodils are beginning to raise their heads in borders and tubs, and buds are developing on trees. These are the early signs that the season of new life is on the way. Seasoned gardeners however, would give words of warning. Don't plant your summer bedding out. It's too early. The soil is still cold, night time temperatures still drop below freezing, we could yet get snow.

We can thank the Lord that when it comes to New Life in Christ, there is never a wrong time. It's never too early, never to late. At whatever time of life, whether young and tender in age or whether nearing the end of our earthly days, our Saviour is always ready to draw us near.

Every Blessing

EPCS Leadership Team

## Keeping in touch

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## The King and Kingdom

In Matthew 5:38-48, Matthew records the teaching of Jesus to a Jewish audience. Jesus is teaching them a new way of living, kingdom living, living like the king! Israel were, and still are, God's chosen people or instrument to take the light and knowledge of the eternal God and Father to a world living in darkness.

Sadly they had kept that light and knowledge for themselves believing themselves to be God's one and only favourites. Jesus is teaching them that they have this calling to take this light to all people (Gentiles) and that God has no favourites. Jesus is showing them the way that all may come into a relationship with the living God

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*"Love your enemies" and "pray for those that persecute you" - that's **responding** with kingdom life not **reacting**.*

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### Current Programme

#### Sunday

11am Published on Facebook and YouTube

12noon After Service Catch Up Zoom.

#### Wednesday 7.30pm

Alternating between Prayer Meeting and Reflections

#### Mon to Fri

Really Good News Stories (Facebook Page)

Daily Verse (Text)

#### Saturday

Weekend Worship

Please get in touch for more details

In Matthew 5, Jesus is teaching the way of life kingdom people should live, not religious adherence to laws or regulations. Jesus is carving a way through the laws and writings passed down to the Jewish people. He teaches in verses 17-20 that He has come to bring fulfilment of the law. Living righteously is not found in the religious observance of laws etc. but from hearts overflowing with the kingdom life of God. Jesus is teaching something quite radical "Love your enemies".

He gives many examples in this chapter, here are three in particular; V38-39 Being struck on right the cheek with the back of the hand was not just an act of violence but one of deep insult. The one doing the striking was declaring the abused as being worthless, a slave, a child or, even in those days deeply insulting, a woman! Jesus says "turn the other cheek" and let them do it again, showing that you fully understand the insult but that you are their equal by not showing violence in return.

V40 If someone wants to sue you and take you to court for the shirt off your back, give your coat also! We need to understand that in those days most people had only two garments. An inner garment, their tunic or shirt and an outer garment, their coat. By doing this you are not showing a violent reaction but showing them up for the shame they have shown by leaving you naked.

V41 The Jewish people were a nation who had been invaded by the Romans who enacted many laws that made life difficult. The law allowed a soldier to force any person to carry his baggage and equipment for up to one mile. Jesus said carry it for two miles. In other words don't huff and puff, planning violent revenge as many Jews had done by joining some resistance movement. Instead copy your generous God go a second mile and astonish the soldier!

How does kingdom living affect us today? Do we **react** to situations with anger, resentment, determined to get your own back. Or do we **respond** with kingdom action from the heart.

# All Age Quiz Night Answers

## Around the World

1. Which of the following is considered poor etiquette in Japan?

Answer: Placing your chopsticks upright in your food

2. What is the name of the river in Sunderland?

Answer: Wear

3. In which country is the number 4 considered unlucky?

Answer: China

4. In which country does nodding the head up and down mean 'no' rather than 'yes'?

Answer: Bulgaria

5. What country has the most time zones?

Answer: France

## Through the Decades

1912 Which ship famously sank after hitting an iceberg? **Titanic**

1922 Which ancient Egyptian pharaoh was dug up? **Tutankhamun**

1935 What country invaded Ethiopia? **Italy**

1948 Who was assassinated in New Delhi in 1948? **Mohandas Gandhi**

1959 What became the 50th U.S. state? **Hawaii**

1961 Who was the first person to go into space? **Yuri Gagarin**

1972 What city hosted the Summer Olympics in 1972? **Munich, West Germany**

1983-85 What country had a famine that killed over 400,000? **Ethiopia.**

1997 In what city did Princess Diana die? **Paris**

2005 'Me at the Zoo' was the first video to be shown on which social media platform? **You Tube**

## Guess Who



1. Sinach
2. Chris Cartwright
3. Bing Crosby
4. Emma Watson
5. Laa Laa

## Here I am to Worship

Light of the world  
You stepped down into dark-  
ness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made this heart  
adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

[Chorus]

And here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that you're my  
God  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly you came to the earth  
you created  
All for love's sake became poor

[Chorus]

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that you're my  
God  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me



## God's Word

### **Romans 1 16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

### **Luke 4 43**

But he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

### **Mark 16 15**

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

## Really Good News

As we advance into a decade of mission as 'one movement on one mission', online opportunities present us with the potential to reach more people with the gospel than any other evangelistic initiative Elim has ever done. Now that's an advance! As you may have guessed we are rather enthusiastic about the **Really Good News Stories**.

Posted on Facebook each day are 90 second stories of the impact God has made to individuals. Can we encourage you to reshare them. The potential as a denomination to reach millions

with the gospel is near not far.

March 28th Elim prayer and the wonderful Sarah Whittleston are hosting a live prayer event. We would love to see as many people interceding for those people who don't know Jesus as possible. The event will run for 1 hour online from 7-8pm.

This will be followed up with 4 special broadcasts, Good Friday Service, Kids Service, Easter Sunday morning service and a Sunday evening event.

## Upcoming Events

**Visiting Speakers:** This Sunday we have Pastor John Bullock sharing God's word. Paul Hudson will be speaking on the 14th and 28th.

### **Really Good News: Daily**

Elim's outreach campaign. During March 60sec daily testimonies will be posted on Facebook for you to share with friends. Please encourage them to join the Good Friday and Easter Sunday Services.

### **Engage Prayer:** Thursday 11th March

See page 6 for details

### **Alpha Team Training :** Sat 20th and Sat 27th March

If you have a passion for people and want to journey with them as they explore spiritual matters, please let us know.

### **Easter Services:** Good Friday 7pm on Facebook/YouTube

Kids Service Sat 3rd 2pm in building

Easter Sunday 11am on Facebook/YouTube.

**Alpha Online:** On 21st April we will be starting an online alpha course running until 7th July.

## Limitless



In February Limitless hosted a live online event called Limitless One. It was wonderful to see so many young people from all over the UK coming together online. During the Friday evening at least 24 young people made a first time response to the gospel (these were those who responded and clicked through to pray with the team online following their response). In all,

82 young people received one-to-one prayer ministry with the online teams, and 598 signed up to participate in the seven spiritual practices the following week! Following Friday's session, Limitless engaged in a week of learning new spiritual practices to help young people follow The Way of Jesus together.... Scripture, Community, Silence & Solitude, Lament, Simplicity & Generosity, Fasting & Prayer and Sabbath. You can see these videos on our Facebook page or on our YouTube Channel. Please pray that God will use this series to help young people everywhere practice The Way of Jesus and that leaders would be supported in their discipleship of their young people by helping them to engage with these life-giving practices.

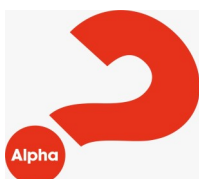
## In Other News

### Weekend Worship T

Throwback Thursdays were a great success last year and we enjoyed the memories that the various pictures evoked. For this year we are trying something new. Welcome to **Weekend Worship**. Each Saturday we'll be sharing worship songs from various artists and different genres on our Facebook Page.

### Wedding Bells

Sue and Rob can now confirm their wedding will take place in Manchester on 17th April 2021. We are so excited on their behalf and will be praying that the forthcoming arrangements etc. go to plan.



**Alpha is coming.....**

### My Mother

I love her so much, my mother.  
She's always in my heart.  
Even though we argue,  
we'll never be apart.

She can tell when I have problems.  
She knows when I am down.  
She's always there to cheer me  
up  
and take away my frowns.

At times when I get mad at her,  
it's hard to stay that way.  
Only because she makes me  
laugh  
every passing day.

I love my mother with all my  
heart,  
but this she does not know.  
Sometimes I want to tell her,  
but I'm afraid to let it show.

Shameka Martin

HAPPY MOTHER'S  
DAY

## A Selection of February Daily Verses

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy our needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103:11-12

The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

Psalms 25:14

## Engage Prayer.

This Engage Prayer day on Thursday 11 March will include two unified times of prayer hosted online on the Elim YouTube and Facebook channels.

### **7.30am - Morning prayer, devotions and communion**

Led by Lynda & Jason Heron, pastors at Northampton Elim. Start your day with us as we focus on Jesus and invite the Spirit to lead us afresh.

### **7.30pm - Evening prayer and worship**

Join us and invite others from your church to join this live event, with Elim Sound's Helen Yousaf facili-



tating worship and Yinka Oyekan (President of the Baptist Churches) leading us in prayer. The Elim Prayer Team will host the evening along with of guest contributors from across Elim.

## The Church Building

We are pleased to report that the lights in the Red Carpet room are now in good working order and wish to express our thanks to Alex Young for the several evenings he has given of his time to trace the fault.

We have been working closely with the management board at Elim Headquarters re the rear wall/damp issue. The more we look the more we discover. Elim headquarters have approached 2 Quantity Surveyors seeking their Fee Proposals in connection with the works required at your church.

The services HQ feel we need would include the following;

1. Initial visit to site to evaluate the scope of works
2. Preparation of 'Schedule of Works'
3. Assemble Tender List to ensure we get back min 3 Good Tenders
4. Produce a Tender Report
5. Allow for 2No. Valuations
6. Final Account

We are extremely grateful for Headquarters support in this and their 'taking the burden' for the decision making. We will continue to trust the Lord for the finance when the time comes.

# Finance

February: Income £1890.20 Expenditure £1119.83

Can we please ask that you prayerfully consider your giving? Some of our members have set up standing orders for which we are thankful. If you are a member or regular attender and are not giving currently due to not being able to attend, could please get in touch so we can look at alternatives.

“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?”  
Luke 14:28

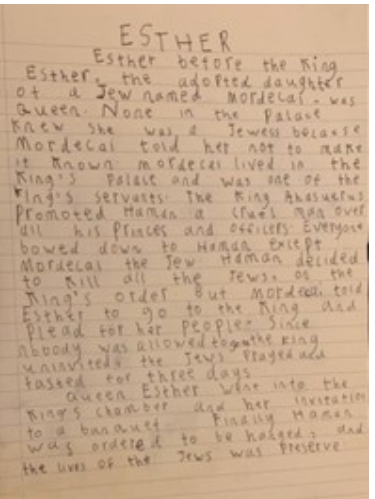
## Children’s Church and Sunday Youth Church

What an amazing group of children and young people we have! As school became online for most they have adapted amazingly. We have been blessed to be able to deliver activities bags at the end of January ready for our children and young people for them to have over the half term holiday.

Through the WhatsApp group, our parents shared lovely experiences which the children had been up to throughout the week, including drawings, prayers, stories, pictures, playing games and jigsaws, bike rides, den building, pancakes and so much more! Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for the images of the work our children produce.

Children’s Church have studied Creation and have commenced a series on The Fruits of the Spirit. The latest new worship song, I Give You My Hallelujah by Hillsong Kids, has been a big hit. SYC have also studied the Fruits of the Spirit and how the Fruits

shine in our lives as we build our relationship with Jesus. Since we have now been in online for nearly a year, we have consulted with our young people to find out what changes we can make to best serve them. We are going to increase our SYC zooms to fortnightly live SYC lessons, accompanied by songs for worship and a thought for the week on the alternative weeks. Our live zoom sessions will include Bible teaching, challenges, games, prayer, quizzes and so much more. We are grateful that we have been able to connect with our children and young people through Zoom. This has been a great opportunity for the children and young people to share what they have been up to and see each other. It is also a time for us to connect and build our knowledge of the Bible and a time for the children and young people to give prayer requests.



Elim Pentecostal Church  
Sunderland

We passionately believe that God has a plan and purpose for you, He loves you and wants you to come to know him through Jesus.

We are a Christian community for all generations and nationalities.

We would love to hear from you too, so please send in any news, stories, prayer requests or praise reports.

Thank You..

## And Finally..

Many years ago, a wealthy man went duck hunting with a hired hand named Sam. They took a horse and carriage, and along the way a rim came off one of the wheels. As Sam hammered it back on, he accidentally hit his finger. Instantly he let go with some bad words. He quickly fell to his knees, asking God's forgiveness. "Lord, it's difficult at times to live the Christian life", he prayed. "Sam" said the man, "I know you're a Christian, but tell me why you struggle so, I'm an atheist, and I don't have problems like that."

Sam didn't know what to say. Just then two ducks flew overhead. The man raised his gun and two shots rang out. "Leave the dead one and go after that wounded bird!" he shouted. Sam pointed at the duck that was fluttering desperately to escape and said, "I've got an answer for you now, Boss. You said my Christianity isn't any good because I have to struggle so. Well, I'm the wounded duck and struggle to get away from the devil. But you Boss, you're the dead duck!"

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