

# FAITH MATTERS

## WE ARE OPEN

Elim Pentecostal Church Sunderland has not closed. We are moving to a different way of enabling our life together, and there will be much that God will do in us and through us during this time. We pray that we will all look back at this season and see wonderful ways in which God has been at work.

We are in this together, and this season will pass. Remember that Church was never meant to be about Sunday meetings. Our worship and life together, and our witness continues. Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to experience the grace of God and share that grace with others. It has rarely been as important for the Church to be the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world'. It continues to be a privilege to serve you all  
Pastor John.

## Keeping in touch

Pastoral care line: 07387 775011

Email: [office@sunderlandelim.org.uk](mailto:office@sunderlandelim.org.uk)

Website: [www.sunderlandelim.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandelim.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elimchurchsunderland/>



## Inside this issue

Church in Lockdown .....	2
Story so Far.....	2
Generosity and Grants ..	3
My Dearest Child .....	3
Saturday Smiles .....	4
Throwback Thursday .....	4
Daily Devotions.....	4
SYC.....	5
Children's Church.....	5
And Finally.....	6





## Church in lockdown

How do we 'do church' when we are prevented from gathering together? Do we shut the lights out, set the alarm, lock the door and wait it out? Of course not, we are the church not the building.

Our goal must be to encourage growth and discipleship and to create a strong sense of community. We have made

use of the available technology and social media platforms but are mindful that they are not accessible to all our church family.

We are making phone calls, using printed literature & text messages and burning CDs, in an attempt to stay connected as a family and to encourage a closer relationship with Christ.

## *“Church was never meant to be about Sunday Services”*

### Current Programme

**Sunday 11 am**  
Sunday Stream on Facebook

**Tuesday 7.30pm**  
Prayer Meeting via Zoom

**Wednesday 7.30pm**  
Reflections on Facebook

**Thursday**  
Throwback Thursday

**Saturday**  
Saturday Bible Smiles

**Mon to Fri**  
Daily Devotionals  
Daily Verse

## Story so far

The last six weeks have been a steep learning curve as we've grappled with putting the vision into practice. There have been hiccups along the way and tweaks here and there. The current program is as detailed opposite.

Our Sunday service is an opportunity to worship in our own homes and hear from God's word. So far on a Wednesday, Pastor has been leading us through a study of Psalm 23 with an opportunity to reflect on how we apply God's word to our daily lives. The Sunday sermons and reflections are also available as podcasts via our website and mobile app. CD's of the daily devotionals have been produced to allow those without online access to share in God's word.

We currently have had 2 zoom prayer meetings and it's been such a blessing to hear and see each other via laptops, tablets and phones. These times with each other and our Lord have been precious.



*Just a small proportion of what will be provided with B & Ms' grant*

## Generosity and Grants

The service provided by the Foodbank is required now more than ever. Whilst many individuals have been furloughed, many have lost jobs and are facing crisis.

Donations of actual food items fell sharply at the beginning or the Covid 19 pandemic as food shortages, rationing and isolation took hold. Regular donors were getting in touch apologizing for not being able to give.

Thankfully we serve a faithful and generous God. Local churches including St Ignatius, St Nicholas, New Silksworth Methodist and Silkworth IMs, have given financial donations. Cleadon Rotary Club and several individuals have also been generous.

We became aware that B&M retail had set aside a sum of money to be used nationally for foodbanks. We submitted a grant application and are delighted to inform you that we were successful and have received £1500.

We give thanks to the Lord for his provision and ask that you pray for this ministry.

### My Dearest Child

My Dearest child

I just want to let you know  
How very much I love you so  
Words so plentiful  
Seem inadequate to express  
Deeds and actions unable to  
convey

The depth of my love  
And how much I care  
I've loved you

From before you were born  
And I'll love you  
After your time on earth is long  
gone

My dear beloved child

My love for you

Is higher than the highest  
mountain

And it goes deeper than the  
deepest sea

It is wider than the widest  
ocean

And it reaches  
Far beyond what the eye can  
see

My love is Stronger than the  
strongest metal

And it's more precious than  
silver or gold

More beautiful than the most  
precious jewel

That's ever been seen or sold  
My love will never fade or die

On this my child you can rely  
Always, eternally, ever yours

Jesus

Written by S. Warren

## Saturday Bible Smiles

1. Who was the straightest man in the Bible?

Joseph, because the bible says Pharoah made him a ruler

2. Where is the greatest case of constipation in the Bible?

Revelation says the Devil was bound for a thousand years

3. How do we know Moses wore a wig?

Sometimes he was with Aaron and sometimes he wasn't

4. Where is the first cricket match mentioned in the Bible?

At Pentecost when Peter stood up with the 11 and was bold (bowled)

5. How do we know Paul was a baker?

Because he went to Philippi (filla pie)

## Throwback Thursday

Every Thursday we feature on our Facebook page events and memories of our church family together. We have featured Campaigners which brought back some fond memories of knots, marching and itchy hats! We have also remembered together the joy of seeing people publicly declaring new life through water baptism.

A firm favorite was a video of Trevor, our American mission

friend, performing in our 'Rock Solid's Got Talent Show'. He certainly brought the house down!



*Campaigners but what's the year?*

## Daily Devotions

Midweek, we have a short daily devotional from various contributors. Currently we are featuring a series on 'The Promises of God' and 'The Names of God'. Our thanks goes to all contributors so far: Pastor John, Louise, Alex, Granville and Pauline, Luke and Chizenge.

Feedback has been really positive and people have enjoyed hearing different voices. To help those who don't have access to technology we will be producing cd's.

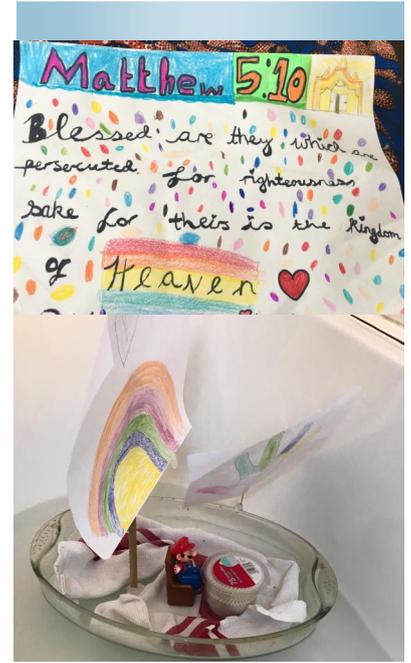
## Leadership Team News

The Elim Leaders Summit takes place online ('Elim Pentecostal Churches' Facebook Page and YouTube Channel) commencing Tuesday 12 May to Wednesday 13 May.

The Church Leadership Team have met several times online for business and prayer meetings. Please pray as we seek the Lord's direction.

## SYC

Through WhatsApp, we are engaging our young people to encourage them in their faith. Each week we have challenges linked to our teaching topics. Easter Week, they had a 'Scavenger Hunt'. We've looked at the disciples meeting in fear and locked away in the Upper Room and Jesus came to them just as we are now in 'lockdown'. They were challenged to create their own 'hide outs'. We've also looked at Christ appearing by the Sea of Galilee and challenging the disciples to throw their nets and how God provided. That week, our young people showed great creativity and we loved the pictures of their home made boats.



*"The most powerful tool we have for influencing behavior is the relationship we build with kids." Casey O'Roarty*

## Children's Church

We are also using WhatsApp to engage with our children.

Emma and Lauren have recorded some fabulous videos to lead our children in their worship. One of our favorite weeks was when Tracy shared the account of Samson and the secret of his strength. The girls were dressed as super-hero's as they lead the children in "Jesus you're my superhero".

We have also looked at Daniel and Noah's Ark explaining about the symbol of the rainbow being about God's promises and provision.

Each week, we set the children a challenge to complete certain activities including writing a prayer, playing 'hopscotch' and creating a rainbow.

We have loved the pictures, videos and prayers received from the children.

Thanks to parents who are sitting down with their children and engaging with them.

Many thanks to Tracy, Emma and Lauren for all their hard work in producing resources for our children both via WhatsApp and the website.



Elim Pentecostal Church Sunderland

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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...

A story is told of an old local preacher, who was a shepherd in the hills. He was invited to dinner by members of the local scientific society and after the meal to make a speech. Very conscious of his intellectual inferiority in such brilliant company, he felt it was too good a chance to miss of witnessing for Christ.

Rising slowly to his feet, he said, "Gentlemen, as you all see I am a plain and simple man. I don't know much about astronomy, but I do know 'the Bright and Morning Star.' I don't know much about botany, but I do know 'the Lily of the Valley' and the 'Rose of Sharon.' I don't know much about geography, but I do know my way to the Cross of Calvary, and after all, that is the only true knowledge that in the long run truly matters." What or Whom do You know?

Elim Pentecostal Church  
Sunderland

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South Hills Crescent  
Durham Road  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR2 7PD

Phone: 07387 775011

E-mail:

[office@sunderlandelim.org.uk](mailto:office@sunderlandelim.org.uk)



Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance  
Registered Charity No. 251549 (England & Wales) and SC037754 (Scotland)