

WELLINGTON CHAPEL

GRAPEVINE CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

JANUARY – APRIL 2012

Pastor:	Ed McMillen	07722 240257	ed@wellingtonec.org.uk
Elders:	Peter Seccombe	01568 797094	peter@wellingtonec.org.uk
	Derek Backhouse	01432 830257	derek@wellingtonec.org.uk
	Mark Roberts	01432 830263	mark@wellingtonec.org.uk
	Keith Weber	01568 611251	keith@wellingtonec.org.uk

Website: www.wellingtonec.org.uk

Dear friends,

One of the questions I was asked at the church lunch during our final visit before the church members voted to call me as their pastor was “If you are to come here what will be your priorities?”

It’s a good question. After a bit of initial waffle eventually the clarity came to me that Jesus has given us our priority as a church and that is “Making disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19). So that is what our priority should be.

It is important to see clearly what we are aiming at. Because there are so many good things we can be doing there is a danger that the good squeezes out the essential.

Whether we and others are disciples of Jesus is very important as this is something that will have eternal consequences (see Mark 8:34-38).

We need to be clear that this is done under the Sovereignty and Grace of our Trinitarian God. It is God the Father who makes things grow (1 Cor 3:6-7), Jesus is the owner of the church and the one who will build it (Matt 16:18) and the Holy Spirit is the one who through his power transforms people (2 Cor 3:17-18).

However, individuals will rightly be held accountable for whether they have wholeheartedly taken up their cross and followed Jesus, and we as a church will be held accountable to the extent we have sought to obey Jesus’ command to ‘make disciples.’

This is something we seek to do corporately. We won’t all be doing the same thing in this task. We have all been given different gifts and use them together for the building up of the church as a body with different parts (Eph 4:7-16).

Jesus gives us the big picture of how to do this task of making disciples by ‘baptising’ them and ‘teaching’ them (Matt 28:19-20). Essentially we do this task by evangelising, seeking to bring those who do not know Christ to become his followers, and discipling, teaching and encouraging Christians to follow in Christ’s way by bringing all aspects of life under his word, the Bible.

Naturally we will initially serve the wider church by seeking to do this as best we can in our locality and that should be our aim. However we want to see this happening in ‘all nations’ and so should be praying and acting with a mindset wider than simply our locality.

Whilst this big picture is clear, often how this works itself out practically requires great wisdom to know how to do this in the context we find ourselves in. We also have to deal with a constantly changing environment. Whilst the message never changes, what may have worked previously in fulfilling the commission may do so no longer as the culture has changed. So we need to be mindful of seeking to fulfil the great commission in the context we are in now and not simply assume we will do what has been done before.

Both evangelism and seeking to mature its members as Christians are not things a church does naturally or automatically. Our natural tendency is to be inward focused and to want to be comfortable, but the Bible teaches us that growth comes by pruning, which will often be painful (John 15:2). The parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30) makes it clear it is possible to bury our gifts. Therefore we need to ensure that, under God’s Sovereignty and by his Grace at work in our lives, we are keeping our big aim in mind and seeking to fulfil it in the setting we are in.

Ed McMillen

CHURCH PROGRAMME

Some special dates for your diary:

Church lunches –

Sunday 15th January

Sunday 12th February (where Phil Bailey will be joining us)

Easter Weekend – In addition to the usual Sunday services there will be a meeting on Good Friday, 6th April, at 10:30pm at the chapel, which will include communion.

Easter service at Field Farm House – The Date of this has yet to be arranged, so will be announced through the weekly sheet.

Sunday Sermons

From January up until Easter the majority of the time we will be looking at the beginning of **Mark's Gospel** in the morning services and the book of **Judges** in the evening services.

After Easter we will mainly be looking at the book of **Ephesians** in the morning services and the prophet **Micah** in the evening services.

You may find it helpful to be reading through these before and during the series.

Tuesday Mid weeks

Prayer Meetings: At 7:30pm in the chapel every Tuesday when there is not a Bible Study or Church Members meeting. 7:15pm for Tea and coffee beforehand. We will briefly be looking at some of Paul's prayers to help shape our own and then be praying for ourselves and further afield.

Church Members Meeting: January 31st, 7:30pm at the chapel.

Bible Studies: 1 Timothy. 7:30pm at the chapel. 7:15pm for tea and coffee.

10th Jan – 1 Timothy 1. Leading - Brian Skinner

24th Jan – 1 Timothy 2. Leading - Peter Seccombe

14th Feb – 1 Timothy 3. Leading - John Roberts

28th Feb – 1 Timothy 4. Leading – Mark Roberts

13th Mar – 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2. Leading – Keith Weber

27th Mar – 1 Timothy 6:3-21. Leading – Les Crosthwaite

Do be praying for those leading and do come along if you are able to.

Preparation notes will be available prior to the studies.

After Easter, we will start a new midweek series. Bible studies will be on

10th April and 24th April and will continue through to the summer.

T-Break – Mums and toddlers group. Wednesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am during school terms
Please make it known.

Monthly Coffee Mornings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Drop in for a chat, delicious cakes, coffee or tea between 10.45am and 12noon

The Lord's Supper is now incorporated in to the 10.30am service on the first Sunday of the month. On other Sundays it continues to be held at 10am.

Kidzone (4's to 11's): Fridays at 6pm- 7pm during school terms

Youth Group (11 plus): Mondays at 7pm-8:30pm during school terms.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Grateful thanks to all who helped in so many different ways with the many tasks required to keep the church running. It is wonderful to see people serving with the gifts God has given them. There are always jobs which need doing and offers of help are always welcome!

Needs – Please do be sharing what your needs or struggles are so that we can be supporting in prayer and practically wherever possible. If you feel it appropriate please do let Keith know so that he can include them on the weekly sheet, either for yourself or others.

Weekly Sheet – Please let Keith know anything to be included by Thursday evening.

Martin and Sam Seccombe and family are supported by Wellington Chapel in their work for the Lord in Japan. Please continue to remember them in prayer and do pick up their regular updates from the table in the chapel.

Peter Seccombe – will be leading two conferences in Zambia from 14th-28th April. Do pray for Peter in his preparation and for the trip itself. Also pray for Bruce Jenkins who will be accompanying him with a view to taking on the role in future years.