

FAITH MATTERS

Adapting

We're now in our stride, working online in this new season, worshipping, meeting together and beginning to look to the future with yes its challenges and many opportunities. We have been aware of God at work during this season which we give thanks to God for. We have been discovering during our Wednesday reflections, on Acts how the early church was 'unleashed'. We are called to be the "unleashed people of God carrying the unleashed presence of God' at all times, wherever we are.

My prayer is that together we will be aware of His plans and purposes at work in our lives. Despite being in separate locations we are united in purpose as Christ's hands and feet to our community.

Pastor John.

Keeping in touch

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ELS 2020 online

This year's Elim Leaders Summit moved from Harrogate to YouTube which allowed many of us to listen to some fantastic teaching and seminars. Chris Cartwright, Elim's General Superintendent, shared a message on how God is awakening us to be more responsive to the moving, directing, presence and power of the Spirit. James Glass led us in a morning devotion based on John 9:1-7. He reminded us

how important it is to be following the Light of the World instead of trying to work out the darkness. Malcolm Duncan spoke on 'Good Grief' the title of his latest book. An honest and hopeful look at our theology that is relevant in today's changing climate. Other contributors were Gavin Calver, Neil Hudson, Dave Newton, Patrick Regan, Simon Barrington, Duncan Clark, James Aladiran and Emma Stark

"It has never been more important for us at this time, that we are moving with the Spirit."

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

Chris Cartwright - Moving with the Holy Spirit

Leading into this year, the Elim movement has had a collective sense of moving into a new decade with fresh faith and renewed purpose. We were seeking to be clear about our vision and our mission and established four shared priorities: Making disciples, developing leaders, growing churches and reaching nations.

From the very beginning as Jesus commissions the first disciples, the church throughout history was released into changing landscapes in challenging seasons.

Chris shared from Acts 16 4—10. Paul is on his second missionary journey when there is the surprising change to Paul's plans. Paul is desperate to turn right for Asia but the Holy Spirit forbids Paul twice and he ends up in Troas. In a place he didn't want to be. It's important for us to see that Paul is stuck in Troas but in the very place where he thinks his plans have stalled, God releases a new opportunity for the gospel to advance way beyond Paul's plans and dreams.



Chris Cartwright cont.

Are we at such a pivotal moment where lockdown forces us to listen afresh and lean into the heart of God to hear his primary call, his primary message and mission for our lives?

Could this be a time, season where God moves us out like Paul with fresh passion, power and purpose to people who don't yet know him?

Do we desire to be a Church that will immerge made up of ordinary people who will move with the spirit?

Do we yearn to be people who are responsive to the Spirit of God, sensitive to him, his presence, his voice and his activity?

Are we people who are responsive to one another, loving one another, giving generously, sharing, sacrificing for brothers and sisters in Christ?

Will we be people who are more responsive to our neighbors, friends, those of differing opinions and to those maybe not like us?

Jesus said so often to his disciples to step away from things that so easily entangles and live for what really matters. This is not just a time to declutter homes and our diaries but our minds, our very soul, our spirit. Time to unburden and cast ourselves fully on him. For Paul and his team it would take courage and adaptability. Will we take up the challenge to reset and pursue Gods plan, purpose and priorities for us.

Lord of All Creation

Remind us of your vastness and greatness. Amidst all the uncertainties of life and the insecurities that surround us, we thank You that You remain unchanged and constant. Give us the gift of faith to believe that our prayers touch Heaven and Your power is touching creation

We ask You to give us courage and determination to continue to offer You our worship, our praise and our thanksgiving.

As the world around us sees that the Church is closed because our buildings are empty, may Your people fill the earth with Your praise, and may we be willing to face the ridicule of the culture with dignity, believing that our worship, praise and devotion to You has an impact on the earth.

Amen

Malcom Duncan

Saturday Bible Smiles

From the mouths of babes.

1. Whilst returning to the main church hall , Children's Church kids were asked to enter quietly. A child enquired 'Why?' Another child replied 'Cos their all asleep'

2. A Kid's Club leader was sharing how God made everything. The trees, flowers, birds etc. A little hand shot up and Tim shouted 'He didn't make my bed this morning.'

3. Children's Church Teacher 'Do you pray before you eat your food everyday?'

Billy ' No miss, I don't need to. My mum's a good cook.'

Throwback Thursday

During May we have cast our minds back to conferences. For the ladies we were reminded of our day in Newcastle a couple of years ago. For our men it was this years Enable conference.

We were also reminded of a recent Sunday morning service where we were visited by Andy Osenton. We congratu-

late Wearside Youth for Christ for their recent fundraising event where they raised almost double their target.



Preparing to reopen

Elim 's National Leadership Team (NLT) have released a roadmap for the next season of response and recovery regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.. The guidelines are aimed at helping churches and leaders to prepare for all aspects of re-entry, not just into our buildings, but into renewed and reshaped mission in this season ahead.

Over the next few months the NLT are committed to ensuring that their updates prioritise:

- Clear and regular communication
- Cautious, responsible steps aimed at ensuring the safety of all those in our communities
- Creative engagement and consultation with our leaders and churches
- Concerted action and partnership

Despite the enthusiasm that so many of us would share for returning to gathering and fellowshiping together in our building, it is already apparent that there are many uncertainties surrounding the ongoing impact and spread of COVID-19. Getting out of lockdown is likely to be even more stretching than moving into it and the Church Leadership Team would appreciate your prayers and patience

Reports & Finance

Within the next few weeks, we will be sending out to Church Members our 'General Report' with ministry reports covering the period from 01/10/18 - 30/03/2020 and the financial report 01/10/18 to 30/09/19. God willing, we will meet together in the autumn for an AGM and Vision evening.

We thank God for His financial provision and for your support. We have various ways in which you can give financially. Please contact us to discuss your options.

May Offerings £3922.04
May Expenditure £3960.08



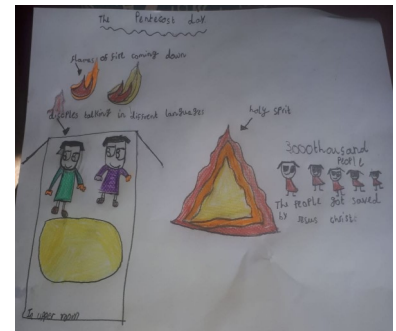
"If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to."

Children's Church and SYC

Children's Church and SYC have continued throughout May on WhatsApp. We have been following on from Easter, teaching Children's Church about the time Jesus spent with his disciples. We've looked at his ascension to heaven and then how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and helped them tell others about Jesus in their own language. The children have continued to send in some great pictures and prayers. SYC have also been looking at the ascension of

Jesus and Pentecost. As well as teaching our young people, we also set them challenges to complete during the week. The latest challenge follows on from Pentecost and we've asked them to learn 'Jesus loves me' in a new language.

We've also had our 'Comfy Chair' feature on Friday's where SYC team members answer questions. We've learnt that Pastor John's favorite biscuits are Jaffa Cakes heard how he came to be a Christian.



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...

There is a story about four clergymen who were discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible. One liked the King James version best because of its simple, beautiful English. Another liked the American Revised Version best because it is more literal and comes nearer to the original Hebrew and Greek. A third liked Moffatt's translation best because of its up to-date vocabulary. The fourth minister was silent. When asked to express his opinion, he replied, "I liked my mother's translation best." The other three expressed surprise. They did not know that his mother had translated the Bible. "Yes she did," he replied. "She translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw."

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